8 TOP OF THE LINE FINS RATED AND REVIEWED

BLUE HERON BRIDGE: THE MUCK-DIVING CAPITAL OF FLORIDA

WAKATOBI DEAL - £350 VOUCHER FOR SPORT DIVER READERS

MISS SCUBA 2015: RESURRECTING THE DIVING PAGEANT

SportDiver

PADI THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PADI DIVING SOCIETY

SEALED WITH A KISS

FARNE ISLANDS FROLICS

THE MEDIEVAL MED

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN CROATIA

10 ULTIMATE WINTER WARMERS

DIVE HOTSPOTS

TO BEAT THE COLD

YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN THE TEAM IN THE BAHAMAS

\+ PAUL ROSE • SCHOLAR • BLUE PLANET • MARTIN EDGE

www.sportdiver.co.uk
770958 900134 01
JAN 2016
£4.20

An experience without equal

At Wakatobi, we take great pride in providing the ultimate in exclusive and personalised service. Our dive staff and private guides ensure your in-water experiences are perfectly matched to your abilities and interests. While at the resort, or on board our luxury dive yacht Pelagian, you need only ask and we will gladly provide any service or facility within our power. For all these reasons and more, Wakatobi takes top honors among discerning divers and snorkellers.

"A fantastic and unique location with some of the best dive sites we've ever experienced. The sites are great at 25 metres, 15 metres and 5 metres, so perfect for any kind of preference. The service and support was downright luxurious!"

T. Marshall Manson, October 2015

wakatobi

www.wakatobi.com

Sport Diver
@PADI THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PADI DIVING SOCIETY

Evolution House,
2-6 Easthampstead Road,
Wokingham, RG40 2EG

EDITORIAL

EDITOR
Mark Evans | 01691 661626
mark.evans@sportdiver.co.uk

DEPUTY EDITOR
Will Harrison | 0118 989 7266
william.harrison@sportdiver.co.uk

ART EDITOR
Matt Griffiths | 01242 216067
matthew.griffiths@sportdiver.co.uk

ADVERTISING

COMMERCIAL BRAND MANAGER
Ross Arnold | 0118 974 2510
ross.arnold@sportdiver.co.uk

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE
Sam Wren | 0118 974 2502
sam.wren@sportdiver.co.uk

PRODUCTION

PUBLISHING PRODUCTION MANAGER
Kevin Shelcott | 01603 772165
kevin.shelcott@archant.co.uk

PRODUCTION TEAM LEADER
Mikey Godden | 01603 772876
michael.godden@archant.co.uk

CREATIVE DESIGNERS
Andy Crafter, Adam Kimberley

PUBLISHING

MD ARCHANT SPECIALIST AND WEDDINGS
Peter Timperley
peter.timperley@archant.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Address: Sport Diver, Tower House, Lathkill Street, Sovereign Park, Market Harborough, LE16 9EF
sportdiver@subscription.co.uk
www.subscriptionsave.co.uk/sd

PRINTING/DISTRIBUTION

Published by Archant Community Media Limited trading as Archant Specialist under licence from Bonnier Dive Publishing Limited

TO BUY A BACK ISSUE OF SPORT DIVER
CALL 0844 848 5232

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the publishers or PADI. Copyright for material published remains with Bonnier Dive Publishing Ltd. Use of material from Sport Diver is strictly prohibited unless permission is given. All advertisements of which the creative content is in whole or in part the work of Bonnier Dive Publishing Ltd remain the copyright of Bonnier Dive Publishing Ltd.

NEVER MISS ANOTHER ISSUE
You can buy individual issues of Sport Diver and have them delivered direct to your door via: www.buyamag.co.uk/sportdiver Use code: SPD34 and get £1 off the October 2015 issue!

Editor's LETTER

YOU could join the Sport Diver team on assignment in the Bahamas

Fancy being part of a ten-page special article in Sport Diver? Want to learn some of the tricks of the underwater photography game from a pro? Then why not join yours truly and underwater photojournalist Stuart Philpott on board the luxury liveaboard Aqua Cat for what promises to be an epic dive trip in November 2016.

It has been several years since the last Sport Diver Reader Trip, and 2016 will see these resume in style, with the Bahama Bash - a liveaboard cruise around the Exuma Marine Park in the Bahamas, which boasts dramatic abyssal walls, colourful coral reefs, marine critters from seahorses and frogfish to trevally, turtles and eagle rays, and exhilarating drift dives. Oh, and did I mention sharks?

Our home for the week will be the Aqua Cat, a luxurious 31-metre catamaran, and the trip will be suitable for all levels of diver. Over the course of the week, Stuart and I will be running several workshops focusing on all aspects of underwater photography, including dedicated shoots majoring on underwater modelling and capturing story-telling images that would work in a magazine article.

The trip runs from 26 November to 3 December, starting and finishing in Nassau, and is priced at US$2,995 per person. This includes seven nights accommodation, six days of diving (that's 27 dives in total!), port and park fees, airport transfers, all food and drink, and the photo workshops with Stuart and myself. There are only 18 spaces up for grabs, which promise to sell out fast, so book your spot now!

For more details, check out: **www.sportdiver.co.uk/bahamas.**

Mark Evans, EDITOR

Contents JANUARY 2016

COVER PICTURE DIVER ADMIRING A FROGFISH
PHOTOGRAPHER STUART PHILPOTT

Regulars

6 NEWS
A campaign is launched to raise funds for an independent lifeboat in St Abbs following the closure of the RNLI station, Scuba Santas is back, and the latest Sport Diver Readers Trip is unveiled.

28 PADI DIVING SOCIETY NEWS
Simon Chance talks about an inspiring meeting with a diver with Spina Bifida at this year's Dive Show and how four ex-servicemen are helping disabled children in Egypt with the help of Deptherapy.

50 LETTERS
The pick of the Sport Diver postbag, including a reader wanting to alert their fellow divers to the perils of DVT and another talking about the importance of topside preparedness.

68 OUR WORLD UNDERWATER SCHOLAR
2015 Scholar, Danny Copeland, spends some time at Bimini's famous Shark Lab.

94 PHOTO WORKSHOP
Martin Edge talks about the importance of taking time to think about your subject and photograph composition before taking a shot, something he calls 'consideration mode'.

106 PAUL ROSE
National Geographic Explorer and BBC presenter Paul Rose talks about his time aboard the Nat Geo liveaboard Orion and his new role as patron of the dive charity Deptherapy.

Features

18 WINTER DIVE DESTINATIONS
The Sport Diver team lists their favourite dive spots for a winter escape, with destinations such as Egypt, Cyprus and the Canary Islands included.

36 CROATIA
Increasingly popular amongst UK divers, Stuart Philpott heads to Croatia to see what all the fuss is about.

44 FLORIDA
Walt Stearns talks of the beauty of Blue Heron Bridge, Florida's best macro dive and an increasingly less-well-kept secret.

52 FARNE ISLANDS
Mark Evans and wife Penney head for the Farne Islands, the UK's seal diving capital.

62 MISS SCUBA UK
Stuart Philpott reports on the reinvention of the Miss Scuba UK contest, the beauty pageant taking on a more serious dive theme this time around.

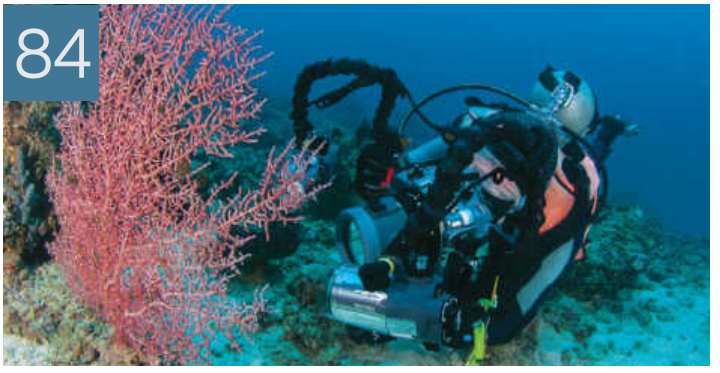
84 CRITTER HUNTING: GORGONIANS
Dr Richard Smith talks about the types of critters found on gorgonian sea fans and how best to shoot them..

Kit & Reviews

70 WHAT'S NEW
A selection of new products, including Oceanic's Manta Ray fins, a dry bag range from Apeks and Scubapro"s Mantis M2 computer.

72 GEAR GUIDE: TOP-END FINS
The Sport Diver Test Team rates and reviews a selection of fins priced at more than £100.

82 LONG TERM TEST
A range of gear is tested over a six-month period, including the Zeagle Express wing, Robin Hood Watersports' X-Flex Tech drysuit and the Finn Sub 3000 Short torch.



12 ISSUES FOR **£21.99**, SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
TURN TO PAGE 34

NEWS

Each month, we collate the latest industry news from right here in the UK, as well as all over our water planet. To find out the most up-to-date news and views, check out the website: **www.sportdiver.co.uk**

St Abbs Lifeboat Station NEEDS YOU!

Sport Diver hears about a campaign to launch an independent lifeboat in St Abbs following the RNLI's decision to close its base there after more than a century's service.

St Abbs and diving, diving and St Abbs… they have gone hand in hand for decades now.

The rich and varied marine life that inhabits the waters around St Abbs and beyond owes its abundance to a number of factors.

St Abbs occupies a unique geographical position, and sits in an area where the warmer water of the Gulf Stream merges with the colder water supplied by the currents coming from the Artic. This confluence of different currents (which brings huge amounts of nutrients) allied to the relatively remote nature of the land around St Abbs means that there is little influence on the clarity of the water caused by discharge or agricultural run-off. On its day, the diving around St Abbs is world class.

The sheer diversity of species is almost too long to list: minke whales, bottlenose dolphin, porpoise and seals, to name but a few, while diving highlights are the inquisitive and seemingly tame ballan wrasse swimming amongst the large kelp forest, plumose anemones, a myriad of dead man's fingers and the one thing most divers come to St Abbs to try and find… the fabled wolfish!

These unique and diverse conditions led to the formation of the St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve (VMR), opened in August 1984 by celebrated environmentalist and broadcaster Sir David Bellamy. The VMR was truly groundbreaking and was the first of its kind in the UK. It exists to preserve the unique natural underwater habitats of this area, and has become a Mecca for scuba enthusiasts. It also allows local fishermen to make their traditional living, catching predominantly brown crab and lobster.

There is another reason St Abbs has cemented itself in the affections of divers: the lifeboat.

A lifeboat has existed in St Abbs since 1911, and was the result of the campaign by a remarkable woman, Jane Hay.

Miss Hay was deeply affected by the events of the night of 17 October 1907, when the Danish steamer SS Alfred Erlandsen, bound for Edinburgh from Copenhagen, ran aground on

the notorious Ebb Carrs rocks just outside St Abbs Harbour with the loss of all 16 crewmen. She toiled tirelessly until she persuaded the RNLI to open a station at St Abbs four years later. Some of the remains of the SS Alfred Erlandsen can still be found to this day, with divers able to encounter the boilers and a few remaining beams at the spot where she went down.

On 11 May 2015, on the back of a Coastal Review, the RNLI took the decision to close St Abbs Lifeboat Station, remove the boat and place a smaller D-Class lifeboat at Eyemouth, 2.5 miles away.

The people of St Abbs immediately launched a campaign to try and persuade the RNLI to review their decision. The campaign gained some high-profile backing early on, with the National Trust for Scotland Chief Executive writing to the RNLI Chief Exec to express his "deep concern" for the safety of his members using the NTS headland at St Abbs. A further 52 MPs signed an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons calling on the RNLI to reconsider, the Scottish Minister for Community Safety was a vociferous opponent of the move, and 13,500 members of the Public signed a petition.

More pertinently for divers, the campaign had the official backing of the Scottish Sub Aqua Club and the British Sub Aqua Club.

To highlight the importance of St Abbs Lifeboat to divers, the extension to the lifeboat station in 1995 was part-funded by an appeal from Sport Diver magazine.

Unfortunately, the RNLI weren't dissuaded from their decision, and on 8 September, 2015 they closed St Abbs Lifeboat Station after 104 years, amid emotional scenes.

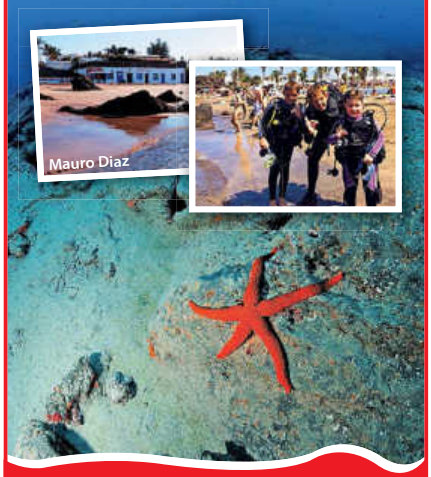
Euan Gibson, Vice-Chairman St Abbs Lifeboat, said: "With the huge numbers of divers we welcome every year, the people of St Abbs don't believe we can afford not to have a lifeboat here, and after a number of public meetings, announced on 1 October that we would start a fundraising campaign to put an Independent Lifeboat back in St Abbs. We will require initial funds of £250,000 for the boat, medical equipment and crew kit, with a subsequent appeal for another £250,000 to provide liquid funds for emergencies.

"These are substantial amounts of money, but we are determined to once again provide lifeboat cover for divers, and other users of the seas around St Abbs."

Many individual divers, and dive clubs have donated generously, and run events to raise money for the lifeboat appeal. The campaign has received a sizeable individual donation, but the fundraising goes on unabated.

Sport Diver readers helped with the extension back in the late 1990s, now you can help raise these much-needed funds, and each month we will report on how the fundraising is going. For details on how you can donate please go to **www.stabbslifeboat.org.uk**

SAFARI DIVING LANZAROTE



"YOU DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD THE DIVING IS HERE UNTIL YOU TRY"

⋆ Proud winner's of Lanzarote's Quality award and Trip Advisor's certificate of Excellence - So you know you are in safe hands.

⋆ A safe family holiday resort with great diving all year round.

⋆ Ideal for all divers whether on your own or in groups.

⋆ We can assist with accommodation near to the dive centre.

SAFARI DIVING

BSAC PADI SSI

Contact Wendy

Phone: (0034) 928 51 19 92
Mobile: (0034) 625 059 713
Email: enquiry@safaridiving.com
Web: www.safaridiving.com

Want to be a record-breaking Santa diver?

Christmas is full of silly traditions - from kissing under the mistletoe to swapping gifts with people that you'd normally rather avoid, it's that time of the year when normally sensible people do silly things. If you're looking for something truly silly to do this festive season - and help raise some serious money for charity - then Vobster Santas is for you!

Run in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) and the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance charities, Vobster Santas 2015 will see hordes of hardy divers don their finest fluffy beards and red pantaloons to take part in a mass Santa dive. Back in 2013, Vobster Santas smashed the world record for the most Santa divers in the water at once with 175 Santas in the freshwater lake. This year's event will take place on Sunday 13 December 2015 at Vobster Quay in Somerset.

Vobster Santas isn't just about world records, though - it's also about raising some serious cash for charity. Once again, Vobster Quay is aiming to raise some serious money for the RNLI by getting as many sponsored divers dressed in their Santa outfits in the water.

Santa divers attending the event will be invited to seek sponsorship for their endeavours through either individual sponsorship or via JustGiving. Vobster Quay will also be raising money for the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance by raffling off a selection of great prizes donated by some of the biggest dive equipment brands. Tickets will be available on the day for just £1 or can be purchased in advance from the Vobster Quay shop.

Divers wishing to participate in the event can get involved by simply registering their attendance at www.vobster.com/santas.

Once registered, you can then get involved in the fundraising in a choice of ways: Direct Sponsorship (download the sponsorship form at www.vobster.com/vobstersantas); JustGiving.com (www.justgiving.com/vobstersantas2015); Mobile Phone text donation - simply text 'VSAN55 £XX' where 'XX' is the amount you wish to donate to 70070.

Sharm diver death 'accidental', rules coroner

A verdict of 'accidental death' has been recorded in the case of a diver who died in Sharm el Sheikh earlier this year.

The inquest heard that Andrew Maybury, 34, died on 17 March after getting into difficulties on a training dive and rapidly returning to the surface from 10m.

Coroner Emma Brown said: "He had been taking part in an open water diving course when he suddenly returned to the surface without using his regulator and suffered a brain injury.

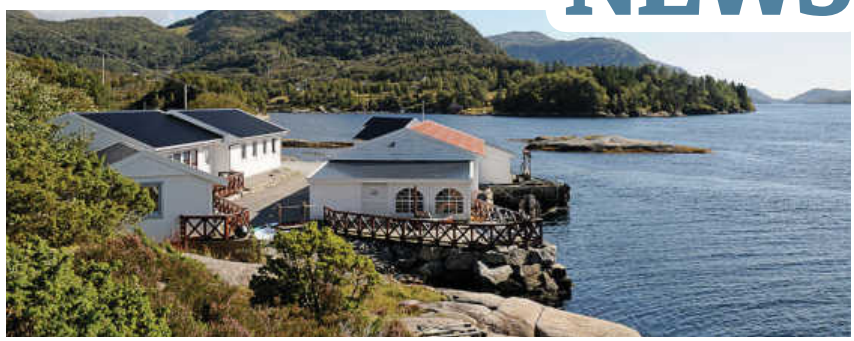
"It was not recognised by the instructor that he was nervous and that is probably a factor.

"Clearly there were deficiencies in the training that he had received in the first part of the course but I cannot conclude that it was causative of the problems he encountered in the water."

The inquest heard there had been 'deficiencies' in the first part of Mr Maybury's training in London with Lodge Scuba.

Suzanne Smith, training director at PADI, said a London-based instructor was expelled as PADI's investigation determined the training was conducted by a Divemaster not an Instructor, as well as other standards breaches. Lodge Scuba was also expelled.

Winter water temperature is 20°C.
This is Egypt.
Egypt
Live the Magic
DIVER 14 AWARDS
Destination of the Year
Egypt
CDWS
SPONSORED BY wakatob
SportDiver
WINNER
BEST DESTINATION
Join us by the Red Sea
HURGADA - MARSA ALAM
www.egypt.travel
Egypt
Live the Magic
Egypt - The Diving Destination of the Year 2012, 2013 & 2014



Gulen Dive Resort wins innovation prize

Gulen Dive Resort was honoured with the Innovation Norway Tourism Award 2015 for the Sogn og Fjordane region, also known as the 'Home of the Fjords', at the annual tourism conference at Scandic Sunnfjord Hotel & Spa in Førde on 19 November.

Innovation Norway is the Norwegian Government's most important instrument for innovation and development of Norwegian enterprises and industry. They support companies in developing their competitive advantage and to enhance innovation.

Most notably, Innovation Norway is the organisation responsible for the official Norwegian travel guide, **www.visitnorway.com**.

"We're very proud and happy to receive this prestigious award by the tourism industry. For a small company like ours, it was a dream come true simply to be nominated," said Gulen Dive Resort owners Monica Bakkeli and Ørjan Sandnes.

Among the criteria for being nominated were sustainability, economy, innovation and international market potential.

easyJet cancels Sharm flights until New Year

easyJet has cancelled all flights between the popular Egyptian dive resort of Sharm el-Sheikh and the UK until 6 January. The airline has said customers on affected flights can fly to an alternative destination, accept a full refund or receive a voucher for future travel.

A spokesperson for easyJet said: "We are sorry for the inconvenience this will obviously cause, but we hope that being clear with all our customers at this point helps you to manage your plans with more certainty.

Following easyJet's announcement, British Airways has cancelled flights up to and including 14 January. Other airlines have cancelled flights until various dates in December. Regular flights were suspended on 4 November after the UK government said the Sinai plane crash, which killed 224 people on 31 October, may have been caused by a bomb.

Talks start over restarting Sharm flights

A senior British Government delegation of aviation and counter-terrorism experts has visited Cairo on instructions from Prime Minister Cameron, for discussions with Egyptian authorities on a Joint Plan to allow British flights to return to Sharm El-Sheikh.

The delegation was headed by the Prime Minister's Envoy on Aviation Security, Sir William Patey. The meetings included discussions with Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and Tourism Minister Hisham Zaazo as well as the National Security Adviser to the President, the Adviser on Security and Counter-Terrorism Affairs and the Head of the Civil Aviation Authority.

The British delegation conveyed a political message from Prime Minister David Cameron that the United Kingdom would work actively, urgently and in detail with the Egyptian authorities, to allow normal flights to and from Sharm el-Sheikh as soon as possible. Commenting on the discussions with Egyptian counterparts, British Ambassador John Casson said: "Britain was the first to act on airport security issues at Sharm El Sheikh, and we want to be the first to find the solutions to restore normal flights as soon as possible. That's why Britain's most senior aviation security experts are in Cairo. We now have a strong basis to agree a shared action plan in the days ahead, to return British flights as soon as possible.

life
fourth element
shop online at:
life.fourthelement.com

Technical Diving

IN LANZAROTE

Come and enjoy the warm deep blue waters of the Atlantic, where we have over 30 dive sites on the island with depths of over 100m ranging from wrecks, caverns and breathtaking sea life.

We offer fully inclusive Tec Diving Packages, our in-house Trimix Instructor will guide you to some of the best diving sites to a depth of 50m and more.

A full range of Tec Diving Courses are also available with either TDi or PADi.

Rebreather Friendly: *We offer fixed price rebreather diving with no surprise bills at the end of the week, our packages include rebreather cylinders, bailout stage(s), sofnolime & gases. Other packages available on request.*

USE CODE SP20
FOR 20% DISCOUNT
ON DIVING DAYS

Photo © Stuart Philpott

LANZAROTE
DIVE CENTRE

***lanzarotedivecentre**.com*
Tel. ***0034 928 514 290***

Adventurous artist wanted for Undersea Art Award

The search is on for an intrepid artist who would like to take the plunge and seek inspiration beneath the waves.

The Wildlife Trusts and the Society of Wildlife Artists fund an Undersea Art Award which pays for an established artist to learn to dive and then to work underwater off the UK coast, recording the wildlife of the sea. Applications for the 2016 award are now open! The winning artist will show their marine-inspired art at the SWLA's exhibition in the Mall Galleries.

Now in its seventh year, the Undersea Art Award has inspired stunning works that show the beauty and diversity of sea life around the UK coast. Artists have until Friday 26 February 2016 to apply.

The 2015 winner, Chris Rose, went diving off the Northumberland coast. His paintings evoke the mystery of seals, swimming guillemots and nudibranchs.

Chris said: "The Undersea Art Award has introduced me to a new world that is exciting for the beauty of its underwater landscapes and for the strange variety of its wildlife. This largely unseen world is rich in wildlife but it is a fragile, delicately balanced ecosystem that we all rely on and yet continue to plunder and destroy at our peril. The old adage 'out of sight, out of mind' has never been more true. My hope is that through my paintings, in some small way, I can help to illuminate the beauty, richness and fragility of our marine environment so that we might value it more and thereby increase public awareness of the need to look after it.

"It has presented me with new artistic challenges and possibilities, and a completely new palette of colours - I am looking forward to continuing my undersea exploration."

For more info, visit **www.wildlifetrusts.org/undersea-art-award.**

SANTI unveils new multifunctional dry glove system

SANTI Diving has launched a new product - Magic Rings. This innovative system of rings and dry gloves provides maximum comfort for divers before, during and after a dive.

As well as offering standard dry glove functionality, Magic Rings have been designed as a multifunctional tool in emergency situations. Magic Rings have many different applications:

- Facilitation of putting on a dry glove with an integrated seal
- Fixed assembly of a dry glove to a drysuit sleeve
- Repair of a damaged seal
- Assembly of a dry glove with a seal by yourself
- Quick self-donning gloves with an integrated seal
- Assembly of a dry glove ring system

A Magic Rings set contains two small and two big oval rings, two rubber protective rings as well as O-rings in four different sizes and colours: black, red, yellow and grey.

For more information about the product, visit **www.santidiving.com.**

MORE TO SEE

MORE TO DO

MORE TO REMEMBER

FLY DIRECT:

airmalta	Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Glasgow*, Birmingham*, Bristol*, Cardiff*, Exeter*, Newcastle* & Norwich*
BRITISH AIRWAYS	Gatwick
europe by easyJet	Gatwick, Manchester & Newcastle
Jet2.com Friendly low fares	East Midlands, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford, Manchester & Newcastle
RYANAIR	Birmingham, Bournemouth*, Bristol, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Glasgow (Prestwick)*, Leeds Bradford, Liverpool, London Stansted & Luton

Terms & Conditions apply. *Summer Routes.

MALTA IS MORE

WWW.VISITMALTA.COM

VALLETTA 2018 EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

visitmalta @visitmaltauk

MALTA GOZO COMINO

ATOMIC AQUATICS
REGULATORS
Quality Beneath The Surface

T3
The ultimate; lightweight and corrosion free, designed with the travel diver in mind.

ST1
The world's first "Green" regulator.

M1
Extreme Performance without compromise.

B2
The perfect combination of comfort, performance, and style.

Z3
Exclusive Atomic features at a mid-range price.

Sport Diver BEST VALUE

Atomic Aquatics Europe GmbH
www.atomicaquatics.co.uk

Sport Diver Bahama Bash 2016

Join Sport Diver Editor Mark Evans and underwater photojournalist Stuart Philpott on board the luxury liveaboard Aqua Cat for what promises to be an epic dive trip in November 2016.

It has been several years since the last Sport Diver Reader Trip, and 2016 will see these resume in style, with a liveaboard cruise around the Exuma Marine Park in the Bahamas, which boasts dramatic abyssal walls, colourful coral reefs, marine critters from seahorses and frogfish to trevally, turtles and eagle rays, and exhilarating drift dives. Oh, and did we mention sharks?

Our home for the week will be the Aqua Cat, a 31-metre catamaran with an enormous lounge/dining area, dual sundeck, massive dive deck and spacious cabins which all boast large picture windows so you can soak up the stunning vistas of the Bahamas when you wake up on a morning. And let's not forget the delicious array of food that will be served up for breakfast, lunch and dinner - you certainly won't lose any weight on this voyage! Then there is the all-inclusive bar for après-dive de-briefs…

The trip is suitable for all levels of diver, and over the course of the week Mark and Stuart will be running several workshops focusing on all aspects of underwater photography, from entry-level hints and advice aimed at raw novices right up to more-advanced techniques for the more-accomplished, as well as dedicated shoots majoring on underwater modelling and capturing story-telling images that would work in a magazine article.

There will also be a photography competition held onboard, to be judged on the final day, with fantastic prizes for the winners in the different categories, which will include the usual Wide-Angle, Macro, Compact, DSLR, etc, as well as Most Improved to recognise those who perhaps only took up an underwater camera in anger for the first time on the trip.

Of course, you don't have to be an underwater photographer to come on the trip. You can just join us for the craic, and enjoy the superlative diving on offer in this part of the world. There will be a special ten-page article produced from the trip, so you'll also be in the magazine!

The trip runs from 26 November to 3 December, starting and finishing in Nassau, and is priced at US$2,995 per person. This includes seven night's accommodation, six days of diving (that's 27 dives in total!), port and park fees, airport transfers, all food and drink, and the photo workshops with Stuart and Mark. There are only 18 spaces up for grabs, which promise to sell out fast, so book your spot now! For more details, check out: **www.sportdiver.co.uk/bahamas.**

Nautilus | Explorer Belle Amie

Manta Love Socorro Island

EXPERIENCE THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING GIANT MANTA INTERACTION

Socorro is more than mantas.
January to April is humpback whale season.

www.NautilusBelleAmie.com

info@nautilusbelleamie.com

+1 604-241-1918

The world's only luxury and SMS ISM safety certified dive boats.

THE NEW
STINGRAY
LIGHT FROM
AMMONITE

A POWERFUL LED TORCH THAT IS COMPACT AND LIGHTWEIGHT WITH A 1000 LUMEN OUTPUT AND APPROXIMATELY 1.5 HOUR BURN TIME, IT'S A MUST HAVE ESSENTIAL FOR ANY TRAVELING DIVER.

AMMONITE SYSTEM

Tel: 07798 523110
Email sales@ammonite-diving.co.uk
www.ammonite-diving.co.uk

DIVE DOCTOR: Medical Q&A

LONDON DIVING CHAMBER

Dr Oliver Firth has gained considerable experience in the field of diving and hyperbaric medicine since joining LDC in 2006. He is an Approved Medical Examiner of Divers for the UK HSE, and a medical referee for the UK Sport Diving Medical Committee. He is involved in the management of all types of diving-related illness, including recompression treatment, as well as providing hyperbaric oxygen therapy for non-diving conditions. He remains a passionate diver and has participated in various expeditions and conservation projects throughout the globe.

Q: I'm after a bit of advice please. I was tempted into one of these whole body health checks and one of the tests offered was a chest scan. Unfortunately it showed: "The lungs appear clear, aside from a pulmonary bleb seen in the upper left lobe, measuring 4.4x1.6x3.1 cm in AP, transverse and craniocaudal dimensions, respectively. No other pulmonary bleb is seen. No pleural effusions or pneumothorax."
Talking to the doctor who ordered the scan, he said that this bleb had probably been there for a long time. I have been diving for 16 years and never had any problems. Please can you give me your recommendation on whether diving is still safe?

A: I bet you wish you hadn't gone for that scan now - this is one of those circumstances where ignorance is bliss! Or, depending on your viewpoint, you've prevented a possible future tragedy… As you say, the bleb has probably been present for some time causing no issue, but now that it has been discovered, one cannot dismiss it. A bleb is a small air-containing blister found in the lung tissue, often as an incidental finding. The vast majority just sit there doing nothing, but rarely they can pop for no apparent reason. Now if this were to happen in a diver, the consequent air leak can lead to a complete lung collapse (pneumothorax) and a rather dangerous predicament for that diver (and their buddy). As this risk is currently unpredictable, it is generally felt that diving in this situation is not permissible. I actually wonder whether what you have should be termed a "bulla", as the dimensions given are rather large for a bleb; the risk, however, remains the same.
There are surgical procedures that can be performed to remove the bleb, and if these procedures were successful then scuba diving might be possible, at least from a respiratory perspective. Snorkelling and freediving don't involve the breathing of compressed gas at depth, so they should still be possible without any surgical intervention.
Obviously this is a complex situation - I would suggest you see a respiratory physician.

Q: I have been a professional diving instructor for many years, with several thousand dives to my name, and no incidents, until recently that is… Last week I was ascending after an easy air dive (25m max depth, 60 minute bottom time) and noticed increasing breathlessness and difficulty expanding my chest. This got worse as I neared the surface, so much so that I thought I was going to suffocate. I coughed up some pink bubbly mucus when I did surface. I was put on oxygen and rushed off to hospital, where they took blood and did a lot of tests. What on earth happened? And can you tell me whether it is going to happen again?

A: This has all the hallmarks of immersion pulmonary oedema. There are some interesting physiological mechanisms at work here:
- The increased water pressure tends to squeeze blood out of the peripheral blood vessels towards the centre.
- The cold temperature and/or tight wetsuit can exacerbate this central shift of blood by constricting peripheral vessels.
- High blood pressure develops in the lungs, and fluid is forced out into the little air sacs where gas exchange normally takes place.
- The fluid build up causes increasing shortness of breath, and acts as an irritant to the lung tissue, and coughing up of blood-tinged frothy sputum results.
The thinking is that it is a 'perfect storm' of one or more of the above processes that causes the condition, but it is not uncommon to uncover underlying heart problems. So you need to have a full cardiac work-up to exclude any heart disease. Most doctors advise that having had an episode of immersion pulmonary oedema, you are at higher risk of another, and therefore should give up diving.

For more Q&As from Dr Oli, check out:
www.sportdiver.co.uk/divedoctor

AWESOME OCEANICS

NICK ROBERTSON-BROWN GETS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH OCEANIC WHITETIPS IN THE RED SEA

WELCOME TO ATLANTIS

FIRST OF A TWO-PART FEATURE EXPLORING THE PHILIPPINES, BEGINNING IN PUERTO GALERA

DEEPER INTO MALTA

GAVIN ANDERSON DONS HIS TWINSET TO VENTURE TO SOME OF MALTA'S TECHNICAL-DEPTH SHIPWRECKS

NEW 'WRECK' FOR CAPERS

THE TRUSTY APEKS VAN EARNS A NEW LEASE OF LIFE AS THE LATEST DIVE ATTRACTION IN CAPERNWRAY

buyamag.co.uk

Great magazines direct to your door

Pre-order the February issue today and **SAVE £1** off the shop price! Go to www.buyamag.co.uk/SportDiver and enter code '**S23PD**'

Nautilus | Explorer Belle Amie

Manta Love Socorro Island

EXPERIENCE THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING GIANT MANTA INTERACTION

Bait Ball Season

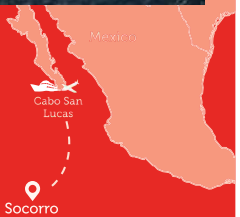
Socorro is more than just mantas. May & June features the most biomass of the year!

www.NautilusExplorer.com

info@nautilusexplorer.com

+1 604-241-1918

The world's only luxury and SMS ISM safety certified dive boats.



Winter DIVING HOTSPOTS

As the cold weather closes in, the **SPORT DIVER EDITORIAL TEAM** has compiled a list of warm-water escapes where you can get your scuba fix without breaking out the thermals

Photographs by **MARK EVANS AND STUART PHILPOTT**

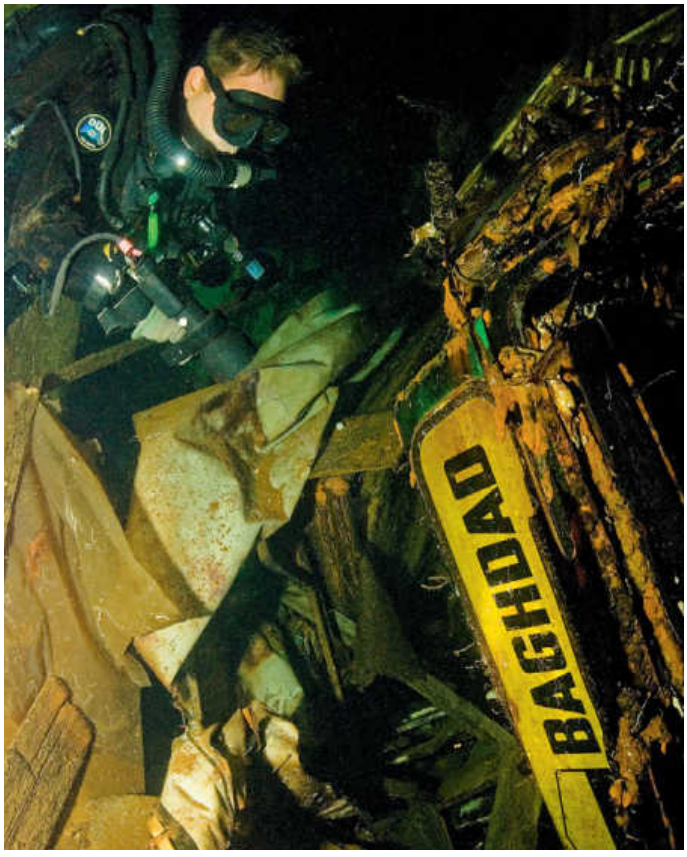
Winter in the UK can be pretty bleak. When it's dreary outside - that 6-degrees-Celsius-and-drizzly sort of dreary - it's easy for the mind to wander, for images of sunnier climes to flood the brain. But sometimes daydreams just don't cut it; sometimes you've just got to escape. With winter very much in full flow, many of you may have already found yourselves staring off into the middle distance at work, in traffic jams on the way home, or as you wash up dinner's dishes five hours after the sun bowed its head. It could be time to just do it, escape the grey and find a piece of the good stuff. To help you out, we've compiled a list of what we think are some of the best winter diving destinations.

CYPRUS

Cyprus is a nearby winter diving destination that offers decent underwater action and a splash of sunshine at an affordable price. A popular spot among European (and particularly British) divers, there are plenty of reputable dive centres to choose from. A range of good hotels makes it easy for visitors to piece together a last-minute trip with ease, and because of the closeness of the destination, this can be anything upwards of a long weekend.

Cyprus's location in the Med means the visibility tends to be good and the topography is interesting and varied, even if the marine life is less prolific compared with other options.

The pinnacle of Cyprus diving is the wreck of the Zenobia, a site that regularly appears in various 'top wreck dives' lists. The ferry, which sank in 1980, now sits in 42m and is an absolute must for visiting divers.



EGYPT

Egypt has long been regarded as *the* diving destination for European divers. It is affordable, less than six hours away by aeroplane and offers genuinely world-class diving. Regardless of the type of diving you're into - wreck or reef, macro or massive, deep or just a dip - there is something for everyone.

The Red Sea boasts some of the most-famous dive sites in the world, including the sheer walls of the Ras Mohammed peninsula (known for its vast congregations of fish life at certain times of the year) and the wreck of the Thistlegorm, a well-preserved World War Two wreck where divers can journey in to holds filled with trucks, motorbikes and piles of soldiers' boots.

Shore-diving, dayboat diving and liveaboards are all available, with the latter allowing divers to access sites such as the incredible Brothers islands, particularly popular among those hoping to encounter sharks (though you'll also witness some of the healthiest reefs around, as well as a couple of wrecks!).

Tiny critters, shoaling fish and huge pelagics - Egypt really does have it all. And you can go any time of the year - even the winter!

3 HOURS FROM MOST UK AIRPORTS

DIVE MALTA, GOZO & COMINO

MORE TO SEE. MORE TO DO. SO MUCH MORE TO REMEMBER.

THREE ISLANDS OFFERING GREAT DIVING

AMPLE CHOICE OF SITES FOR RECREATIONAL & TECHNICAL DIVING

MALTA - DIVE CENTRES

Adventure Diving Malta	www.adventuredivingmalta.com	adventure.diving.malta@gmail.com	+356	9964 4095
Aquaventure	www.aquaventuremalta.com	info@aquaventuremalta.com	+356	2152 2141
Blue Waters Dive Cove	www.divebluewaters.com	info@divebluewaters.com	+356	2156 5626
Buddies Dive Cove	www.buddiesmalta.com	dive@buddiesmalta.com	+356	2757 6266
Dawn Diving	www.dawndiving.com	info@dawndiving.com	+356	9943 1703
Divewise	www.divewise.com.mt	info@divewise.com.mt	+356	2135 6441
Maltaqua	www.maltaqua.com	dive@maltaqua.com	+356	2157 1111
Ocean Mysteries Diving	www.oceanmysteriesdiving.com	info@oceanmysteriesdiving.com	+356	2152 2220
OrangeShark H20 Diving Centres	www.orangeshark.eu	info@orangeshark.eu	+356	2152 1329
Seashell Dive Centre	www.seashell-divecove.com	info@seashell-divecove.com	+356	2152 1062

GOZO - DIVE CENTRES

Atlantis Dive Centre	www.atlantisgozo.com	info@atlantisgozo.com	+356	2219 0000
Gozo Aqua Sports	www.gozoaquasports.com	dive@gozoaquasports.com	+356	2156 3037
Moby Dives	www.mobydivesgozo.com	info@mobydivesgozo.com	+356	2156 4429
St. Andrew's Divers Cove	www.gozodive.com	standrew@gozodive.com	+356	2155 1301
Scuba Kings	www.scuba-kings.com	gozodiveschool@hotmail.com	+44	0121288 7385
Utina Diving College	www.utina-diving.com	utina@gozomail.com	+356	2155 0514

COMINO - DIVE CENTRES

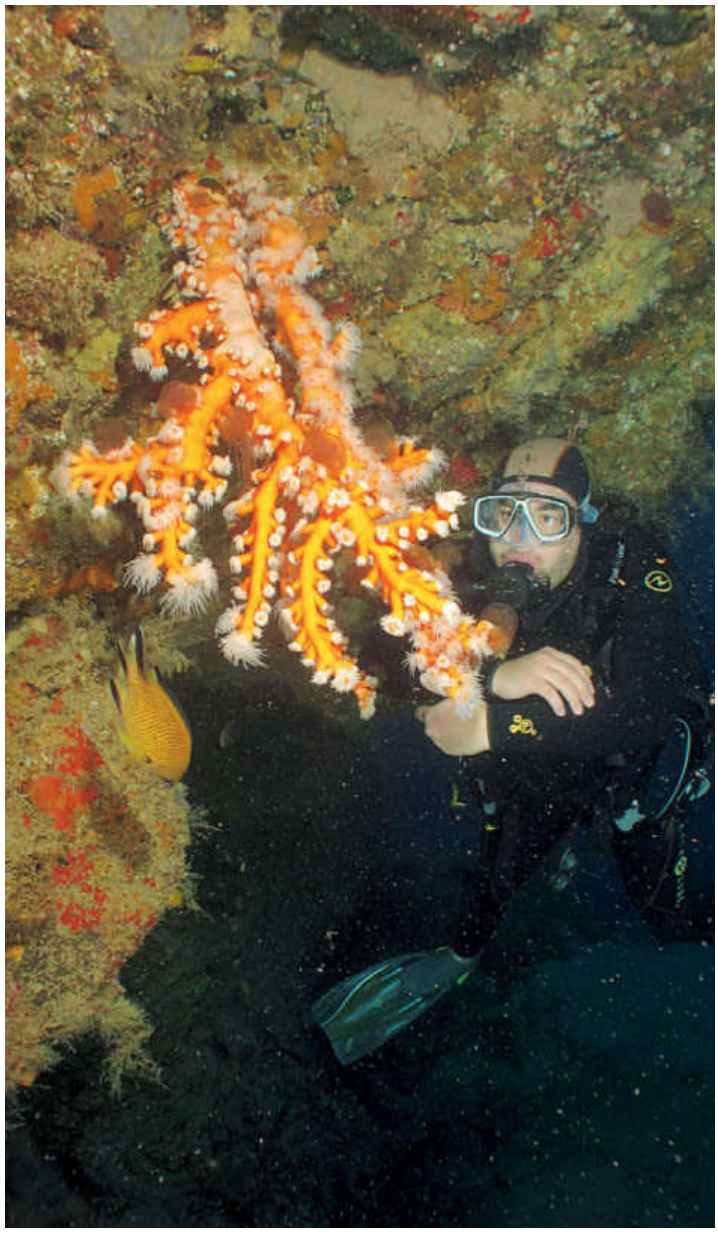
Diveshack Comino Dive Centre	www.divemalta.com	info@divemalta.com	+356	2133 8558

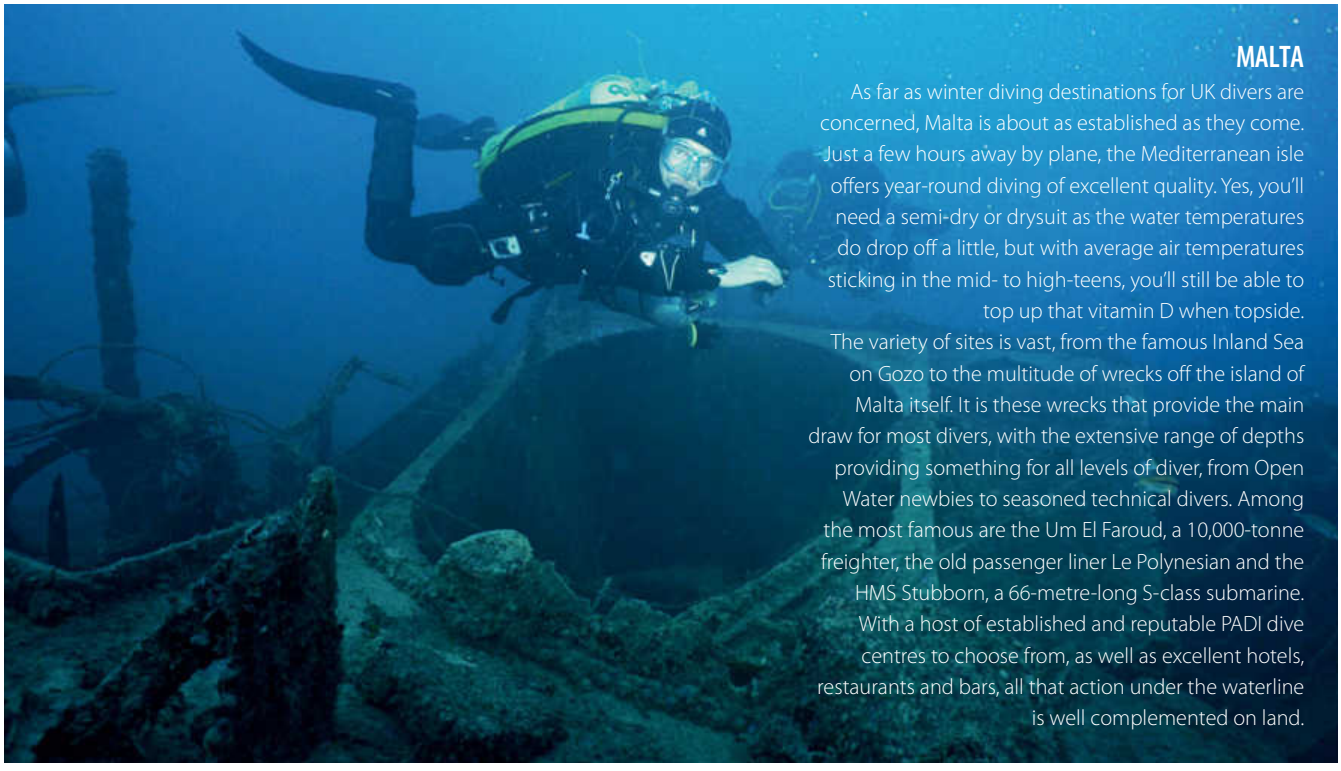
CALL TODAY TO BOOK YOUR UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE

CANARY ISLANDS

Located in the North Atlantic off the coast of Morocco, this collection of Spanish islands offer European divers some very accessible winter diving. The autonomous archipelago consists of a number of islands already popular with holidaymakers, the most famous being Tenerife, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria and Lanzarote. The diving on each of the islands is excellent, with both shore diving and boat diving available from a variety of centres. Much like Mediterranean diving, the Canary Islands are more about excellent visibility and stunning topography than marine life, though there are still plenty of creatures to be found, including nudibranchs, moray eels and grouper to name but a few.

The islands' standing as existing holiday spots means there is plenty of choice with regards to accommodation and places to spend your evenings. Add to that a range of affordable airlines and you've got yourself a very tempting winter vacation that won't break the bank.





MALTA

As far as winter diving destinations for UK divers are concerned, Malta is about as established as they come. Just a few hours away by plane, the Mediterranean isle offers year-round diving of excellent quality. Yes, you'll need a semi-dry or drysuit as the water temperatures do drop off a little, but with average air temperatures sticking in the mid- to high-teens, you'll still be able to top up that vitamin D when topside.

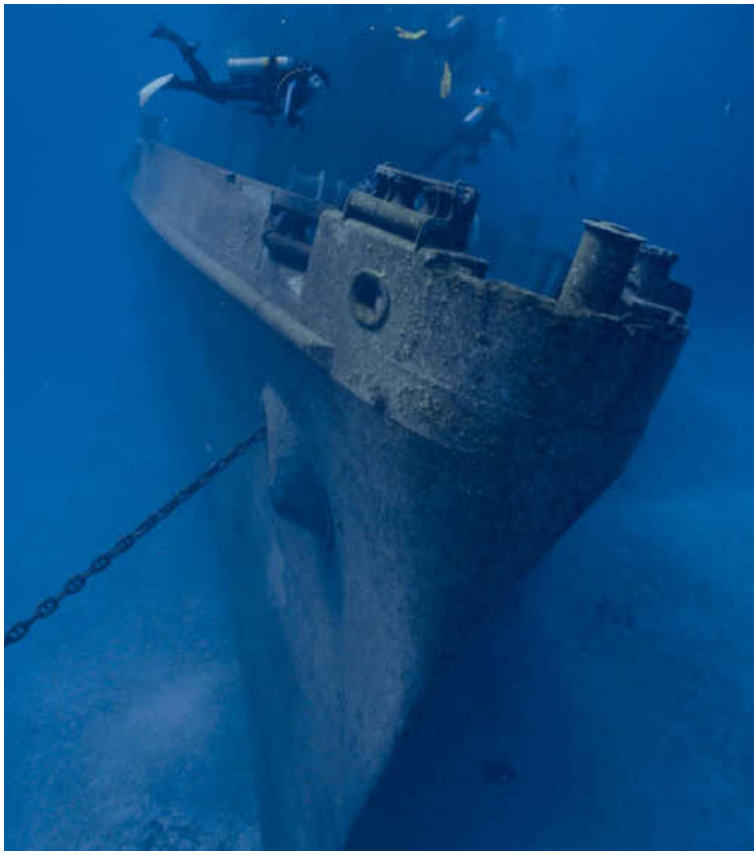
The variety of sites is vast, from the famous Inland Sea on Gozo to the multitude of wrecks off the island of Malta itself. It is these wrecks that provide the main draw for most divers, with the extensive range of depths providing something for all levels of diver, from Open Water newbies to seasoned technical divers. Among the most famous are the Um El Faroud, a 10,000-tonne freighter, the old passenger liner Le Polynesian and the HMS Stubborn, a 66-metre-long S-class submarine.

With a host of established and reputable PADI dive centres to choose from, as well as excellent hotels, restaurants and bars, all that action under the waterline is well complemented on land.

MALDIVES

Is there anywhere on the planet that conjures up a more picture-perfect image in the mind's eye? Gorgeous white-sand islands with turquoise waters gently lapping at the shores, overhanging palm trees swaying in a refreshing breeze - pretty nice, right? People from all over the world head to this low-lying archipelago for their holidays whether they're divers or not. Life topside is stunning enough to keep anyone happy for a week or two. Add some world-class diving to the mix and you've got yourself a pretty special vacation indeed. Most island resorts offer diving, with the range of sites varying from nearby sites accessible by small motorboats to spots a little further afield that can only be accessed by dayboat. Excellent house reefs are also a feature of Maldivian diving, with guests generally allowed to dive as much as they like.

Due to the range of resorts on offer it's worth doing some research before your trip. Monsoon seasons impact the diving and marine life, so bear that in mind too.



CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean is a paradise location, whether you're a diver or a beach-goer - this makes it an ideal winter escape for divers with non-diving partners who're happy to kickback with an afternoon cocktail while their other half hits the water.

Of course, the Caribbean is a vast swathe of islands, and each one offers its own type of diving and its own style of life topside. If you're into your wrecks, Grenada's the island for you - home to the Bianca C, known as the 'Titanic of the Caribbean', as well as a multitude of other wrecks, the island is often referred to as the 'Wreck Diving Capital of the Caribbean'. If vast walls are more your sort of thing, why not check out the diminutive Turks and Caicos Islands, a series of limestone pinnacles that drop off into the deep blue, or the Bahamas, where shark fly-pasts on sheer walls are a regular occurrence.

Regardless of where you choose, you're almost guaranteed healthy reefs, good visibility, professional dive centres (and staff) and some of the best topside downtime anywhere in the world. Sunset rum on the beach anyone?

PAPUA DIVING
RESORTS
KRI ECO - SORIDO BAY

Going the extra smile for you.

What`s your picture of a perfect diving holiday?

Great dives, caring buddies, delicious food, ... all in all: memories that last long beyond your tanline.

Papua Diving's twin retreats **Sorido Bay** and **Kri Eco**, centrally located in the marine sanctuary of Raja Ampat on the island "Kri" offer a great opportunity, for those who wish to escape from clutter and every day routine.

WWW.PAPUA-DIVING.COM

Scuba Travel
Est 1995

Egypt
Live the Magic

0800 072 8221
dive@scubatravel.com
www.scubatravel.com

Dive Malta Gozo Comino

WITH

MALTAQUA

Recreational & Technical Diving

short break packages

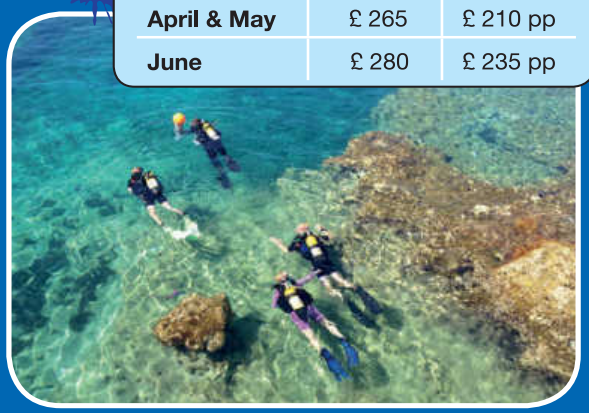
Price Includes:

- Airport Transfers • Accommodation
- Escorted Shore Dives • Tank and Weight Rental
- Road Transport To Dive Site

Blue Hole - Gozo *Photo: frankie van remoortel-cortebeeck*

3 Nights 4 dives	1 person per room	2 persons per room
Feb to March	£ 190	£ 160 pp
April & May	£ 210	£ 175 pp
June	£ 220	£ 190 pp

4 Nights 6 dives	1 person per room	2 persons per room
Feb to March	£ 245	£ 190 pp
April & May	£ 265	£ 210 pp
June	£ 280	£ 235 pp



Our apartments can accommodate up to 32 persons. View them at www.staymalta.com

providing the highest standards in diver training

BSAC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

PADI

Celebrating 45 years

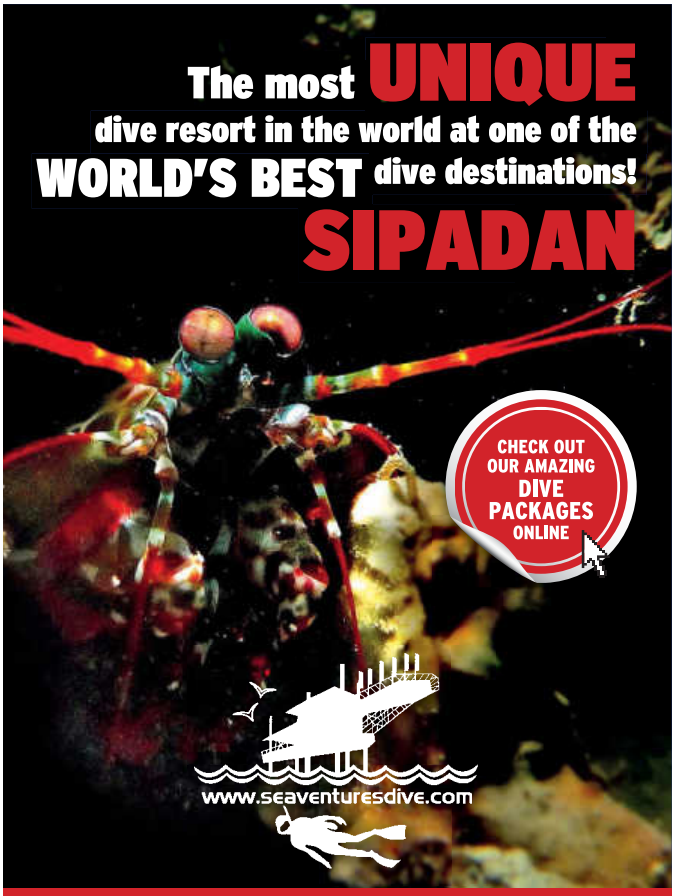
www.MALTAQUA.com

Mosta Road, St. Paul's Bay, SPB 3114 Malta

T: +356 21 571 111 or 21 572 558 E: dive@maltaqua.com

The most **UNIQUE** dive resort in the world at one of the **WORLD'S BEST** dive destinations!

SIPADAN



+60 88 261 669 | 251 669 | www.seaventuresdive.com

AQUA LUNG tripadvisor

AVILLION LAYANG LAYANG

The ultimate Hammerhead shark experience.
Discover it at Avillion Layang Layang, Sabah, Malaysia.

E res@avillionlayanglayang.com W avillionlayanglayang.com

INDONESIA

Yes, we know Indonesia is vast (it forms the majority of the world's largest archipelago) but it's home to a few of the best diving spots on the planet and therefore well worth inclusion as a single winter diving destination. If you're into your macro, head for the Lembeh Strait in North Sulawesi; if you're after some manta magic and current-filled fun, it's all about Komodo (where you'll also get to see dragons, of course); and if you want some excellent diving with fancy hotels and western comforts, Bali's your bag. Then there's Raja Ampat. If you're after a once-in-a-lifetime experience filled with manta rays, sharks, macro critters, mangroves, reefs teeming with fish life, caves, uninhabited islands with eagles soaring overhead, and liveaboard living where you'll go literally days without seeing another boat, then Raja Ampat is the destination for you. It's not a quick winter break, of course, but if you're willing to invest a little time and money and go for a proper holiday, we can't think of a better place.

FIJI

It's a long way to go, sure, but if you're up for a lengthy winter dive holiday full of healthy reefs and plenty of sharks, then Fiji's worth a thought. The vibrancy of some of the reefs that fill the waters of this Pacific nation will rival most places on the planet, certainly in terms of colour. If you're a 'reefer', you'll love it here.

But think 'Fiji' and most people now think 'sharks'. The Fiji Shark Dive at the aptly named Shark Reef is regarded by some as the best shark dive on the planet - bar none. It is a feed dive, which may well turn a few people off, but if you don't mind this practice then this dive will quite probably blow your mind. The stars of the show are the bull sharks, but blacktip, whitetip, grey reef, silvertip, tawny nurse, sicklefin lemon, and the occasional tiger shark can also be seen. That's some list!

Topside, you can kick back on beautiful beaches, under gorgeous palm trees waiting for stunning sunsets, all with a refreshing beverage and some of the finest hospitality the world has to offer.

SOUTH AFRICA

Sharks. Think of diving in South Africa and sharks immediately spring to mind. Great whites are the undoubted main draw - alongside Australia and Guadalupe, South Africa is one of the best places in the world to share the water with these apex predators. But it's not just about great whites. A wide range of shark species can be found off South Africa's coastline, with the prehistoric seven gill shark perhaps the next most exciting. For shark encounters mixed with beautiful rocky reef, Aliwal Shoal is worth your attentions.

With some fabulous cities to choose from, including Durban and Cape Town, as well as plenty of rural options, divers are spoiled for choice for topside activities. A cable car up Table Mountain in Cape Town, body boarding in Durban, wine-tasting at one of the many vineyards… take your pick. There's always the option of a safari too, and if you've already seen one of the ocean's most-prolific predators, why not experience some of the finest land has to offer too?

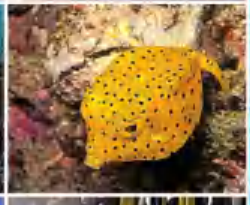
AUSTRALIA

The Great Barrier Reef. We could probably leave it there… but we won't. Yes, we know it's a long way to go, and much like Indonesia, this is a proper holiday rather than a winter escape - time and money will both be required, but once you're there you'll be glad you made the commitment. With regards to escaping the winter, Australia is a good shout - it's the middle of the summer over there.

While the Great Barrier Reef offers a range of experiences for divers of all experiences (dayboats and liveaboards are both available), your choice of centre will likely depend on what you want to do topside and where you're planning on basing yourself. Dive centres can be found in sleepy little towns as well as the big cities.

East coast visitors should also consider visiting the wreck of the Yongala, widely regarded as one of the finest wrecks in the world and home to some of the biggest wreck-dwelling creatures around: there's a grouper there called VW, owing to his size being similar to that of a car!

There's always the 'other side' of course, with Ningaloo Reef the most famous of the western options. Whalesharks, anyone?



YOU'VE HEARD OF PARADISE?

That little place we all want to go, at least for some part of our lives...
Well, we found it. And we dived it. And we've made a place for you too.

Sairee cottage diving is Koh Taos' premier diving school. A PADI 5 Star IDC centre where you can dive the finest waters with masters of the art. Learn and dive with state of the art facilities and equipment, in the only dive centre in Koh Tao to hold the 'Pure Air' award by Bauer compressors. Whether it's instructor courses, beginner classes or specialties, we have the course for you.

evolve
SaireeCottage
DIVING

www.saireecottagediving.com
mail: info@saireecottagediving.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/SaireeCottageDivingKohTao
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Diving_KohTao
Blog: http://blog.saireecottagediving.com/

PADI 5STAR

Life's short. Make every dive count.

January Sale NOW ON

Philippines from £995
INC DIVING & flights
Maldives from £1195

Your Buddy Dives **FREE**
Luxury Liveaboard **OFFERS**

Philippines Bali Manado Maldives & Indian Ocean
Far East Latin America Red Sea Truk & Pacific

GROUP DISCOUNTS & FREE PLACES

www.sportifdive.co.uk
01273 844919

SPORTIF Dive
diving holidays worldwide

WORLDWIDE DIVING

Tailor-made Holidays, Resorts & Liveaboards
in over 20 top dive destinations worldwide

- LIVEABOARDS
- BAHAMAS
- MALTA & GOZO
- AZORES
- RED SEA
- OMAN
- MALDIVES
- INDONESIA
- PHILIPPINES
- THAILAND
- MEXICO
- CARIBBEAN
- PEMBA
- GALAPAGOS & MORE

25 YEARS OF DIVING WWW.REGALDIVE.CO.UK

© Photoshot

Regaldive
THE DIVING HOLIDAY SPECIALISTS

01353 659999
www.regaldive.co.uk

ABTOT ATOL Protected AITO assured BSAC Partner

Celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2016, with over 135,000 PADI professionals and more than 6,000 dive shops and resorts worldwide, PADI training materials and services let you experience scuba diving from nearly anywhere. Scuba diving with PADI instructors, dive centres and resorts can help transform your life through education, experience and environmental conservation.

JOIN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DIVING CLUB | BECOME PART OF ONE GLOBAL FAMILY

SIMON SAYS...

Simon R Chance, manager, PADI Diving Society and PADI Retailer & Resort Associations

BOB, BOB, BOBBING ALONG...

Shaun with the team at Moon Divers

At the recent dive show in Birmingham, it was my great pleasure to meet Shaun Mawson, a recently-qualified PADI Open Water Diver and, it so happens, a great ambassador for the sport.

Shaun was known for many years by his friends as 'Bob', since that was what he did most times they were swimming around together; they simply put him in a floating ring, and he bobbed around while they swam, dived and snorkelled around him.

Bob - sorry, 'Shaun' - was reasonably content for the most part, since there was a general consensus that swimming and diving were probably not going to be his 'thing' due to personal circumstances. Shaun himself, however, had bigger ambitions, so while on holiday in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, he decided to approach local PADI centre Moon Divers, to see if they had a perspective on the issue.

They did, and it confirmed Shaun's feeling that he could, indeed, join others beneath the waves. Having met the gentleman I would surmise that the completion of his dive certification represents a considerable personal achievement which, surely, cannot have been reached without considerable effort on his part, yet I was impressed most by his modest assuredness that the right mind-set was all that was required; more 'I'm just doing what anyone can do', than 'if I can do it, anyone can'.

Being a native of the North-West - his email address includes the word 'happyscouser' - Shaun also gave a highly entertaining account of his experiences, but surprised me more when he mentioned (again, very modestly) that it might be useful for others in a similar position to chat about his own, personal experiences, and compare notes. For Shaun was not just conquering a natural physical reaction to the concept of breathing underwater, with the assistance of the PADI Pros at Moon Divers; he also conquers, every day, the additional challenges of living with Spina Bifida, so applying the same determination and physical effort to the scuba experience worked well for him.

Shaun was very sincere in his offer to chat through any concerns or preconceptions with others who are considering taking the plunge, and either living with Spina Bifida or in similar situations, so if you would like to speak with him - and I promise, from personal experience, you would - then please drop me a line (padidivingsociety.emea@padi.com) and I will put you in touch!

The PADI Diving Society has been in existence since 1997, and from humble beginnings has grown substantially, within a few years reaching heady heights of 'world's biggest diving club'. With membership now standing at over 180,000 keen, active divers across the planet, the PADI Diving Society represents a formidable 'tribe'. Now all three sectors of the PADI Diving Society - Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe, Middle East and Africa - have moved from been connected but fractured, uniting under a global banner and becoming one entity, with a unified approach and single magazine title reaching all members, everywhere. **www.padi.com/scuba-diving**

FACEBOOK.COM/PADI | TWITTER.COM/PADI | WWW.SCUBAEARTH.COM

MORE INSPIRING STUFF

On 10 December, four seriously injured British Armed Services personnel, currently undergoing PADI training with rehabilitation charity Deptherapy, will help a group of 12 Egyptian special needs children from the town of El Qusier to experience scuba diving as part of HEPCA's 'Diving for All' programme.

Supported by the four injured troops and Deptherapy staff, the children will enjoy scuba diving in a confined water environment, hosted by Steve and Clare Rattle of PADI five-star Instructor Development Centre Pharaoh Dive Club, at Roots Red Sea; Roots is the base for injured troops on the Deptherapy programme undertaking their PADI Open Water Diver Course.

Working with HEPCA - the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association - the event is the brainchild of PADI IDC Staff Instructor Sharon El Shoura, a former Bedfordshire police officer who moved to Egypt in 2005 and has considerable experience of working with people of varied abilities and special needs.

The four British Armed Services personnel are Luke Morrison (a single-below-the-knee amputee), Gary Green (blinded in the right eye and living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), Mike Jones (back injury and PTSD) and Danny Martin, who is battling both PTSD and cancer. All four, plus their instructors and support team, are looking forward to working and diving with the children.

Danny, 23, said: "I am so looking forward to helping these Egyptian children, I know how important support and motivation is when you have suffered injury or illness… Without the loving support of my wife Lisa, my children, family and friends I would not be where I am today. Deptherapy has come along and provided with support, 24/7 if I need and has given me a focus to my life. I want to repay this by inspiring these kids in the same way that Deptherapy has inspired me."

LEADING THE WAY

I'd like to dedicate the available column space this month to pay tribute to two more rather-impressive gentlemen, both of whom have achieved their PADI Master Scuba Diver certifications very early in life!

Having completed a PADI SEAL Team experience shortly after his 10th birthday, it was almost a year before Cameron Forbes had the opportunity to complete his full PADI Junior Open Water Diver certification and, although still diving in between, almost another before his Advanced Open Water Diver. From this solid platform, however, Cameron then set about growing his certifications with a will, aided by Hull-based five-star PADI Dive Centre Scuba Dream, and gaining his PADI Master Scuba Diver credential just four months after reaching the grand old age of 12. Meanwhile, over in Wales, Ben Hulsh also had other challenges to face down besides his pursuit of PADI Master Scuba Diver certification, which he achieved only about a week after his 12th birthday, with Thailand, Grenada and Egypt in his logbook alongside home waters. At the same time, however, Ben has also been fighting Crohn's disease, undergoing no fewer than four operations over the period, and has also found time to make film and TV appearances along the way!

I fully expect to hear more of these fine folk in the future, however for now I will simply congratulate them and all PADI Master Scuba divers, and wish you all safe diving!

The prestigious Master Scuba Diver certification recognises a diver's mastery of personal diving skills in a minimum of five different Diver Specialty areas, as well as their ability to demonstrate dependable Rescue and Emergency Responder techniques. To find out more, visit PADI's website via: http://tinyurl.com/PADIMasterDiver

The Maldives... "An incredible underwater adventure awaits!"

AWARDS 2015 · SPONSORED BY wakatobi · SportDiver · WINNER · BEST OVERSEAS PADI DIVE CENTRE

Kuredu Island Resort
www.kuredu.com

Komandoo Island Resort
www.komandoo.com

Vakarufalhi Island Resort
www.vakaru.com

Lily Beach Island Resort
www.lilybeachmaldives.com

prodivers
kuredu · komandoo · vakarufalhi · lily beach

For more information visit www.prodivers.com

COMMERCIAL DIVING

Get job satisfaction, flexibility, lucrative earnings and worldwide travel.

Take your diving to the next level with training from the commercial diving experts.

Contact our Student Advisors to find out more:
+44 (0) 1397 703786, fortwilliam@theunderwatercentre.com
www.theunderwatercentre.com or scan the QR code for more info.

THE UNDERWATER CENTRE
FORT WILLIAM

CHOOSE OTTER

BIG SALE

Sat 28th Nov 9.30am
ends Sat 5th Dec 5pm

The choice of leading dive explorers worldwide

I choose Otter because.....
"...for exploration diving in extreme conditions and remote locations. I need 100% reliability and 100% performance. Otter suits give me this. I choose Otter to stay dry on every dive."
Martin Robson
Cave Explorer and Technical Instructor Trainer

www.drysuits.co.uk

I choose Otter because.....
"...they're lightweight and flexible yet tough and reliable-a combination for travelling and diving in my favourite tech diving locations. And they look GREAT!"
Vikki Batten
PADI Director of Rebreather Technologies

Otter Britannic MK2
Telescopic Drysuit

- Neoprene neck warmer as standard
- Choice of pockets
- Double knee-protector pads
- New style telescopic body with neoprene strap slider
- Choice of dry socks and rock boots or Otter boots.
- Choice of Si-Tech or Apeks valves (standard or DIR position)
- Optional dryglove and quick replacement neck seal systems

Only £1340

Most Makes of Drysuits Repaired

911 Wakefield Road, Dudley Hill, Bradford, BD4 7QA | sales@drysuits.co.uk | 01274-379480

bluewaterseries

The Dive Behind the Photo (Part 3)

"Cabo Pulmo is a National Marine Park located some 70 miles North-East of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. This place has become a source of pride for the small Cabo Pulmo community – and all of Mexico. It was not long ago that the community of Cabo Pulmo was a fishing village. Fishing for subsistence, the families there had been fishing the area for generations. A few elders in the community began to notice fewer catches and smaller fish than in the past. There was a movement in the community to preserve the area and, in 1994, Cabo Pulmo became a National Marine Park. Now, the community works to conserve the area and the marine life that dwells there. The community shares their special place with divers and other visitors from all over the world.

This giant school of jacks has become iconic in describing the success of the marine park. The size of the school is impressive. The school can fill an area as wide and long as a basketball court and approximately 15 meters (50 feet) top to bottom. In this shot I was following my dive buddy, Adil, as he took video of the inside of the school. Finally he emerged from the middle of the school of jacks and there were two goliath grouper right in front of him. The fish slowly separated and formed a nice frame around my friend and the groupers." – David Valencia

The conservation success story behind David Valencia's captivating photo can't help but motivate us as divers to protect what we love (and love to explore). While there are certainly many hurdles to overcome and much work to be done to preserve our marine environments, inspiration can always be found in the victories, from local movements such as the Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park to global initiatives like those recently announced at the Our Ocean Summit in Chile earlier this month.

Be inspired by David Valencia's story with a PADI limited edition Blue Water Series replacement certification card. Visit a PADI Dive Center or Resort or padi.com to order yours today!

PADI

Project AWARE Foundation is a growing movement of scuba divers protecting the ocean planet - one dive at a time. Over the past two decades of underwater conservation we've learned that divers are true leaders in ocean protection. We're ocean heroes numbering in the millions across the globe. We believe together our actions will make a huge impact and will help to rescue the ocean. **www.projectaware.org**

MY OCEAN **NEWS**

Domino Albert,
Manager, Project AWARE EMEA

The saying 'You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it' is very true when it comes to shark conservation. We are extremely disappointed by the outcomes of the 24th Regular International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). In a collaborative effort to promote the adoption of science-based shark management measures, Project AWARE joined NGO partners in Malta where the meeting was held last November to urge safeguards for sharks at risk. Despite an unprecedented number of ICCAT Parties, 30 out of 50, supporting a stronger shark-finning ban, ICCAT failed once again to take critical steps towards effective shark management in the Atlantic. Japan led the fight to kill EU proposals aimed at protecting common threshers and limiting catch of makos, while its attempt to raise proposed blue shark catch levels prevented consensus on that measure. The only shark measure agreed at ICCAT 2015 was a compromise between Canada and the EU aimed at conserving porbeagle sharks. On the bright side, the 'fins-attached' proposal gained 16 co-sponsors at the meeting - including Russia, Venezuela, Tunisia, and Nigeria - reaching a total of 30 Parties, and the US, EU and Senegal all vowed to continue to advocate for 'fins naturally attached' policies as the best way to prevent finning. The US also secured a 2016 ICCAT review of finning ban implementation. While we're frustrated with the outcomes of ICCAT 2015, we're overwhelmed by the extent of the public support for meaningful shark conservation. As new opportunities arise in 2016, we're hopeful that key shark conservation measures will be taken to protect sharks in peril. Some battles you win, some you lose, but it makes us all the more determined to continue the fight for sharks.

NEW YEAR, NEW PLANET

Ocean activist makes renewed pledge to commit to ocean protection in 2016 in his native country of Kenya

By Alexa Ward, Community Relations Specialist, Project AWARE Foundation

The start of a New Year brings promise for new beginnings, a time to set goals and intentions to improve some facet of our personal lives, relationships with others or our environments. For divers, the New Year provides the perfect opportunity to renew our commitment to protecting what we love - our big, blue ocean planet!

Through Project AWARE's flagship citizen-science programme, Dive Against Debris, scuba divers around the globe are committing to ocean protection in 2016, utilising their unique underwater skill set to highlight the ways that trash beneath the waves is harming ocean ecosystems and wildlife. As our movement grows, divers' grassroots efforts are spreading to even the furthest corners of the Earth, including some unexpected locations: Saeed Balala, ocean activist in Mombasa, Kenya, has committed to making giant strides against marine debris in the New Year.

Saeed Balala grew up in Kenya, East Africa, a place where most youths are not exposed to ocean biodiversity. He explains that this lack of exposure results in a lack of knowledge and awareness of ocean issues, like marine debris. Without a personal connection to the ocean, many do not understand the challenges it faces, nor feel compelled to protect it. A community organiser by nature, Saeed has made it his mission to change this and instill ocean activism across his hometown of Mombasa, Kenya.

Saeed's decision to advocate for marine conservation occurred during a visit to the coast, when he witnessed sea turtles and birds entangled in marine debris carelessly left behind by beach goers. Compelled to pursue a career in conservation, Saeed went to school to study Tourism Management and soon became a tourism officer stationed at Kenya Wildlife Service Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park. Here, he researched and studied the interaction between wildlife and local communities. He became scuba certified and began working more closely on sea turtle protection efforts. When he learned about Project AWARE's work on marine debris, he knew he had to get involved.

In late 2015, Saeed led the largest-ever Dive Against Debris effort with Project AWARE volunteers in Kenya. Over 250 dive volunteers gathered, cleaning four miles of coastline across six different beaches and removing over 1,500lbs of trash. The Dive Against Debris coincided with the launch of a local recycling centre, where volunteers sorted and recycled all waste collected. In an area where understanding of the marine debris issue is not widespread, Saeed's efforts made a lasting impact on the community. And, he's not stopping anytime soon. As part of his New Year's resolution, he's planned numerous youth education seminars, recycling clubs and additional Dives Against Debris in 2016.

Join Saeed in pledging to protect our ocean this year. Visit: **projectaware.org** to learn more.

Give your friends and family the gift of PADI eLearning this holiday season and they'll be able to banish their winter blues by starting or expanding their diving adventures online – anytime, anywhere.

- PADI eLearning Gift Passes available for new divers to professional courses
- Customise your PADI eLearning Gift Pass with a holiday design and personal message
- Choose from over 6,500 PADI Dive Centers/Resorts to complete the in-water sessions

This magical experience is waiting to be unwrapped at **padi.com/elearning**

my PADI®

PADI®

PRIORITY SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Archant Ltd, FREEPOST LE6423,
Leicester, LE87 9BY, UK

YOUR DETAILS (mandatory to complete)

Mr/Mrs/Ms First name Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone Mobile

Email*

*Please enter this information so that we can keep you up-to-date with important information about your subscription and exclusive offers that we think you'll enjoy. You can unsubscribe from these messages at any time.

GIFT RECIPIENT DETAILS (if giving as a gift)

Mr/Mrs/Ms First name Surname

Address

Postcode

SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

For two or more subscriptions, SAVING an extra £5, please order online or call (details on opposite page)

SPECIAL INTEREST	Direct Debit every 6 months	Direct Debit annually	Credit/debit card or cheque	DELIVERED TO: Myself	Recipient
Published 12 times a year:					
Sport Diver	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
FRANCE Magazine	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
French Property News	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
EQ Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Canal Boat	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Your Chickens	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Sporting Shooter	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Rifle Shooter	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Published 13 times a year:					
Living France	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐
Pilot	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐
Country Smallholding	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐
Air Gunner	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐
Airgun World	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐

REGIONAL	Direct Debit every 6 months	Direct Debit annually	Credit/debit card or cheque	DELIVERED TO: Myself	Recipient
Published 12 times a year:					
Berkshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Buckinghamshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Cheshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Cornwall Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Derbyshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Dorset Magazine	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Essex Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Hampshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Hertfordshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Kent Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Lancashire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Let's Talk	N/A	☐ £16.00	☐ £18.00	☐	☐
EDP Norfolk	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Somerset Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
EADT Suffolk	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Surrey Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Sussex Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Yorkshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐
Published 13 times a year:					
Cotswold Life	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐
Devon Life	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐

PAYMENT METHOD:

1. DIRECT DEBIT Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Service User Number 415266 Reference (office use only)

☐ Please start a subscription(s) by Direct Debit to the magazine as indicated above

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society branch

To the manager (Bank name)

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Branch sort code Bank/Building Society number

INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY. Please pay Archant Community Media Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction, subject to safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that the instruction may remain with Archant Community Media Ltd and if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank or Building Society.

Signature Date

YOU MAY CANCEL THE DIRECT DEBIT AT ANY TIME AFTER THE FIRST PAYMENT IS TAKEN.
Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are ordering more than one Direct Debit subscription they will be taken as a separate Direct Debit payment for each subscription

2. CREDIT/DEBIT CARD OR CHEQUE

☐ Please find enclosed a cheque made payable to Archant Community Media Ltd for £

☐ Please debit my credit/debit card the sum of £

Start Date Expiry Date Issue No (Mastro only)

Signature Date

Archant Community Media Ltd, the publishers, would like to keep in touch, from acknowledging receipt of your order efficiently to sending you details of exclusive offers. Please tick here if you would rather not hear from us by post ☐ or phone ☐. We've teamed up with some great partners who would like to contact you occasionally but if you would prefer not to receive these messages tick here for post ☐ and phone ☐. If you'd like to hear from them by email tick here ☐ or SMS tick here ☐.

Source code: CSDXS15A

© Hyrman, Maxborovkov – Dreamstime.com

Choose from over 30 magazines

Visit subscriptionsave.co.uk/sdxmas to see the full range

SAVE £5 when you order two subscriptions

Great reasons to subscribe

- ★ SAVE 56% by Direct Debit – from just £10.99 every six months
- ★ Or choose credit/debit card for just £26.99 for 12 issues and SAVE 46%
- ★ Receive a gift card with every order for you to give at Christmas

T&Cs: Gift subscriptions start with the first issue published in 2016. Your gift card will be sent to you once the order has been processed, for you to give on Christmas day. Order two or more subscriptions and save £2.50 off each subscription. We must receive your order by 05/12/15 to guarantee you will receive your gift card before Christmas. Personal orders will start with the next available issue, unless stated otherwise. FREE UK delivery. Direct Debit is a UK only offer. Please call +44 (0)1858 438840 for overseas delivery rates. Offer ends 31/12/15.

The perfect gift

from just £10.99

Treat a loved one this Christmas to a subscription. Each issue is delivered to their door – a reminder of your generosity every month!

SAVE up to **56%**

Get 12 issues plus PADI Diving Society membership per year

EASY WAYS TO ORDER

www.subscriptionsave.co.uk/sdxmas

0844 848 4211 quoting CSDXS15A

Lines are open 8am – 9.30pm Mon to Fri, 8am – 4pm Sat. BT calls to 0844 cost no more than 5p/min plus a 15p call set up fee, calls from mobiles usually cost more.

CROATIA Calling

When it comes to diving, Croatia is currently something of a buzz word. **STUART PHILPOTT** heads for the Med to see what all the fuss is about

Photographs by **STUART PHILPOTT**

Croatia, tucked away in the far corners of the Mediterranean, has only recently popped up on the dive destination radar. Hearing so many good reports, I just couldn't resist a visit. Well-known brand Euro Divers had opened a dive centre on Krk Island, way up in the north, hundreds of miles away from the hustle and bustle of top tourist resort Dubrovnik. I had no idea if this was the best diving spot but if Euro Divers had set up in Stara Baška, then this was as good a place as any for a visit. Direct flight options are limited to just one Ryan Air service departing from Stansted to Riječka, which is a tad restrictive for a Southwesterner like me, but the cost of the air ticket hadn't left a huge dent in my wallet and with a flight time of only two hours and 20 minutes, I wouldn't be suffering too much plane strain.

I picked up a taxi at Riječka airport and made tracks for Stara Baška, which turned out to be an hour's drive, depending on local traffic. The fare cost 52 Euros each way, so next time around I will probably put the money towards a full week's car rental hire. This would give me much more freedom in the evenings and I could also go sightseeing on non-diving days. At the opposite end of the scale, I spoke to a young German couple, Stefan and Irena, who were more than happy to stay at Stara Baška for a complete two-week period. Stefan said he had a high-pressure job in Munich and preferred to go diving all day and just chill in the evenings.

Stara Baška is located in a small bay on the south side of Krk Island. This is approximately 10km from Punat, which is home to the third biggest boat marina in Europe (important note - the marina restaurant serves the best cheeseburgers). The town itself has three bars/restaurants and a number of low-rise apartment blocks all fronted by a pebble beach and a concrete quay/walkway, which provides moorings for around 50 or so fishing boats and pleasure craft. There is also a small super-market, but it was quite a walk from my accommodation so I didn't get a chance to visit.

The PADI-associated dive centre is conveniently located on the sea front just a few steps below my hotel, Pansion Nadia. Euro Divers opened for business on 1 April 2013. I met the manager and part owner, Kai Behrend, who had spent ten years in the German Special Forces before changing career to the dive industry. For the next ten years he worked as a diving instructor and a manager at various resort islands in the Maldives before finally settling in Croatia.

I turned up in Stara Baška at the tail end of Kai's third season. Kai had employed two other full-time members of staff. Vinko doubled-up as Divemaster and boat driver, and Maria managed the front desk. They were both born and bred in Stara Baška. Kai said: "We might not have the best boat or the best facility, but we care more for our divers. We give the competent divers more latitude and help the weaker divers." More than 85 percent of Kai's customers are repeaters. Some have been loyal followers since his Maldives days. A fair proportion of Kai's clientele come from Germany. With Munich only six hours' drive away, this is quite understandable - especially when most of the road is Autobahn.

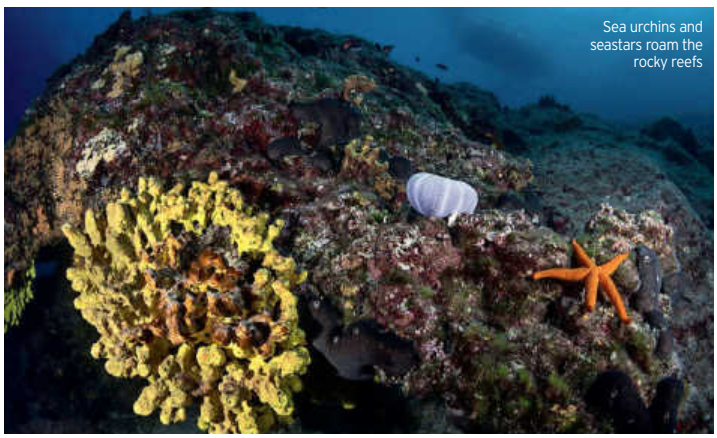
There are approximately 40 dive sites within a ten- to 60-minute boat journey. Normal diving days start with a morning dip at 9.30am and then an afternoon dive at 3pm. On occasions Kai offers two-tank morning dives and full daytrips to the popular Lina wreck, which is about a two-hour boat ride each way. Drysuits are a good option or a full 7mm wetsuit, although Kai said that he had a group of Brummies visiting last year wearing just shorties! There can be highs of 26 degrees Celsius but usually the water temperature hovers between 18 and 24 degrees. Kai recommended visiting the last three weeks in September when the weather is usually good and there are less divers milling about.

My week got off to a good start with a scenic dive at Prvic Tunnel. The main feature happens to be a swim-through/tunnel adorned with colourful sponges. The tunnel sits at a depth of 10m and is roughly 50 metres long, with room enough for two or three divers swimming abreast. There is also a wall dominated by yellow sponges and the odd purple sea fan.

The underwater topography is stunning

The Euro Divers dive boat

There are many swim-throughs and arches


Sea urchins and seastars roam the rocky reefs

Croatia's waters hold all manner of marine growth...

...including vibrantly coloured sponges

The topside scenery is stunning as well

Getting all patriotic underwater

"At the end of the week Kai gave me back my cert card and a list of the all dive sites I had visited, including depths, times etc - what a great idea!"

Fish life mainly comprised of small damsels, flying gurnard, scorpionfish and some black-and-white spotted nudibranchs.

I soon settled into a daily routine beginning with breakfast at Nadia. This was one of my favourite moments, drinking coffee and eating freshly made chocolate croissants while admiring the spectacular sea view. Between dives I would have lunch at the neighbouring restaurant Marinara, and then back to Nadia for dinner.

Kai said that last year he counted eight different seahorses on the house reef and so, taking up the challenge, we went seahorse hunting. The bottom composition was mainly sand with sporadic patches of seagrass. Black sea cucumbers were virtually everywhere. I also found an old boot, a discarded wine bottle and a tyre. We searched fruitlessly for 45 minutes and then, as promised, Kai found me a seahorse. Apart from the house reef there are no other shore-diving sites.

One morning the wind picked up, which didn't bode well for diving. Kai said there are two main winds affecting the dive sites. Bura, which blows from the northeast, is not usually a showstopper and the boat can still go out. Then there's Hugo that blows from the south, which is quite rare but whips up the waves and stops just about all diving activities. Unfortunately I got a Hugo, but Kai promised me it would only last two days. As usual I managed to break the norm and get the very first three-day Hugo! Galun Island is the only dive site accessible during a Hugo (15 minutes' boat ride away), so I got to know Galun pretty well over those

three days. At Galun Lanterna there are the remains of a speedboat. The stern is full of old dive cylinders. I guess this is to stop the little wreck from moving about. The steering wheel and gauges are still in place. A giant tubeworm made a great focal point for my pictures. In the other direction at Galun Anphsa I found a drop-off dotted with bright yellow sponges and red starfish. On the opposite windward side of the island there is a garden of small sea fans and rocky outcrops covered in black-and-white nudibranchs. Big fish sightings are quite rare although I did spot a lone dolphin passing by. I paired up with a German diver called JJ for a dive at Brazol, which started with a wreck at a depth of around 30m. I didn't find out the history but it looked like a cabin cruiser, about 20 metres long. I managed to get inside the cabin area and go through the hatchways, but most of the interior had already disintegrated. Marine life mainly consisted of a conger eel and a lobster hiding behind the prop.

On our trip to Prvic Coral Garden, Kai paired me up with Polish diver, Renata. This turned out to be my deepest dive of the week (42m) and the best visibility (30 metres). The site was basically two seamounts that dropped off into the blue beyond. I followed Renata down to a very pretty wall full of purple sea fans interlaced with red and yellow sponges. We had plenty of shoaling bream dodging our exhaled bubbles. The dive ended on a pinnacle underneath the boat. There are around six dive centres operating in the region, but Euro Divers is the only centre at Stara Baška. Kai said they rarely see another dive boat.

Kai's favourite site was called Zala Draga. This was by far the best macro site, with various species of nudibranchs, scorpionfish, blennies, wrasse, mullet and multiple octopus sightings. Using Renata as a marine life spotter really helped me clock up my picture quota. My last dive at a site called Skuljca was my best for wide-angle opportunities. There were a number of deep gullies making a kind of underwater maze. The late afternoon sun filtered around the rocks giving the site a magical feel.

At the end of the week Kai gave me back my cert card and a list of all the dive sites I had visited, including depths, times, etc. This is the first time anyone has ever done this for me and what a great idea, as I am always forgetting to write down the details.

Stara Baška wasn't the most adrenalin-fuelled destination I have ever visited but I came away feeling relaxed and with a smile on my face. I couldn't fault the dive centre or the staff and the dive sites were colourful, the water was clear and blue (and in places deep), there was a house reef with virtually guaranteed seahorse sightings and even a couple of shipwrecks. Pansion Nadia delivered some great food and wine at very reasonable prices, the beers were served in frosted glasses and everyone I met couldn't have been any friendlier, so not a bad all-round result! ■

The old speedboat at Galun Lanterna

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
CROATIA

FreeVectorMaps.com

GETTING THERE
Ryan Air operates a direct service from London Stansted to Riječka. Flight time is roughly two hours and 20 minutes. From Riječka it's an approx 45-minute car journey to Stara Baška on Krk Island.

WHEN TO GO
The last three weeks in September are a good bet, when it is quieter and there are less divers about.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
A valid passport with six months to expiry.

CURRENCY
Kuna (GBP1 = 11 Kuna).

WHERE TO EAT AND MEET
There are only three restaurants/bars in Stara Baska, but all serve good food, in big portions, at low prices.

VERDICT
Good all-round Mediterranean dive destination offering a mix of wrecks, reefs, caves and small stuff. Stara Baška is not the most lively town but combines good food, cold beer and a friendly atmosphere.

SAM'S TOURS PALAU
Buddy Dive RESORT Bonaire
NICK TROUBETZKOY'S ANSE CHASTANET ST. LUCIA
DIVETECH CAYMAN ISLANDS
Cobalt Coast RESORT AND SUITES GRAND CAYMAN
LAGUNA BEACH RESORT
M/V CARIBBEAN PEARL II BAY ISLANDS YACHT CHARTERS
Manta Ray Bay RESORT & Yap Divers mantaray.com
BEQA LAGOON RESORT FIJI ISLANDS
FRANKO GUIDES
SCUBAPRO
PADI Diving Society
Kids Sea Camp
"GIVE THEM A WEEK THEY WILL REMEMBER FOREVER."
PRESENTING THE WORLD'S BEST FAMILY DIVE VACATIONS
YAP
PALAU
PHILIPPINES
BONAIRE
UTILA
AUSTRALIA
ST. LUCIA
FIJI
THE CAYMANS
GRENADA
ROATAN
GALAPAGOS
ST. VINCENT
FAMILY DIVE ADVENTURES
WWW.FAMILYDIVERS.COM 803-419-2556 EMAIL:DIVE@FAMILYDIVERS.COM

wakatobi uncovered

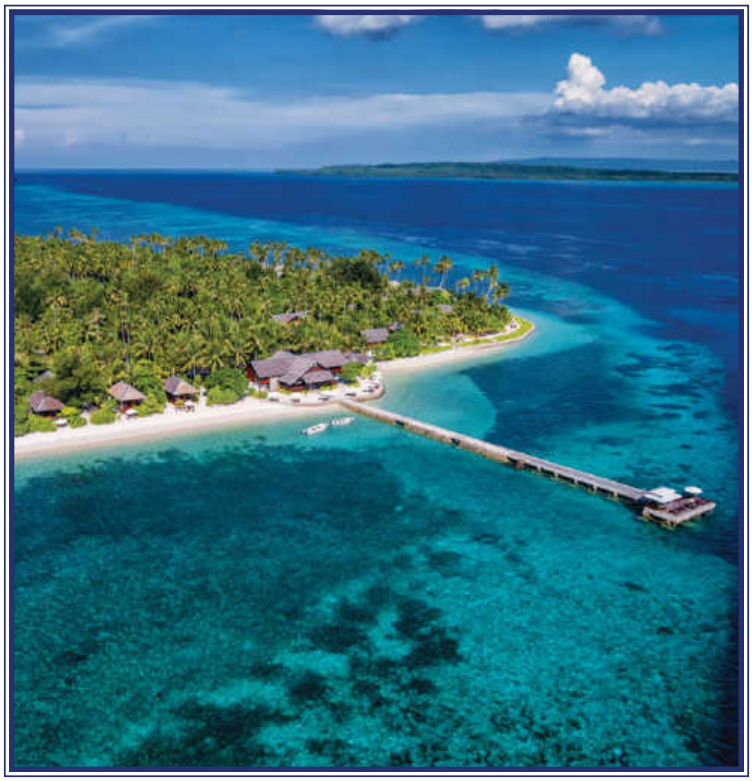
PARADISE JUST GOT A LITTLE MORE AFFORDABLE

It's that festive time of year, and to celebrate, Wakatobi is offering Sport Diver readers a voucher worth a whopping £350 to spend in-resort

Photographs by WALT STEARNS AND DIDI LOTZE

As the winter weather closes in around us, the skies go grey and the temperatures plummet, what better way to lift your spirits than consider a dream vacation to the paradise resort of Wakatobi in Southwest Sulawesi, Indonesia.

You will enjoy the tranquillity and secluded location of Wakatobi Dive Resort - no traffic noise, no pollution, and no other dedicated dive resort for hundreds of miles. Even getting there is very James Bond - a private charter flight will transport you from Bali to a purpose-built airstrip in less than three hours, and then a short boat ride takes you to the resort itself.



Despite its remote location, Wakatobi Dive Resort offers a very civilised existence. Each hand-crafted villa and bungalow (there are just 15 Ocean Bungalows, nine Palm Bungalows and four Villas) is spacious, quiet, comfortable and just a few steps from the ocean. All are air-conditioned with wi-fi satellite internet access, along with comprehensive amenities.

Wakatobi Dive Resort was created with a vision to deliver the ultimate dive experience, and was established following an extensive search to identify the perfect location for a dive resort in terms of geography, climate, oceanic topography and marine biodiversity. To this end, the resort funds a private conservation initiative that provides protection for a 20km section of reef, along with direct lease payments to area villages and fishermen. This continues despite the fact that the resort and the surrounding area now sit within the confines of a larger National Park.

The House Reef is world-famous, and with a vibrant, colourful reef and a dramatic wall right on the doorstep, it is no wonder that some guests never go on a boat dive during their stay! However, if you can tear yourself away from here, you have access to more than 40 sites located between ten minutes and one hour away in the resort's dayboats. Then there are fantastic night dives, and the opportunity to experience the weird-and-wonderful world of fluro-diving.

It's not all about diving, though. As well as just kicking back in a hammock and chilling out, you can get seriously relaxed within the confines of the Wakatobi spa, which blends the best of Indonesian and European traditions, where custom-blended oils and aromatherapies complement personalised massages and a variety of other treatments.

Then you can browse novels as well as fish identification and marine life books in the air-conditioned library, take in a marine wildlife show in the Media Room on an evening, or just mingle with your fellow guests in the Longhouse Lounge as you sip a refreshing beverage. If this all sounds too tame for you, then why not make use of the newly opened Kite School? From May to September, trade winds make the waters off Wakatobi a kite-surfer's heaven, and now both beginners and experienced surfers can take to the sea and get a serious boost of adrenaline. ■

The Pelagian

The luxurious liveaboard Pelagian expands on Wakatobi Dive Resort's tradition of ultimate service and premier diving. Venturing into remote and seldom-visited corners of the Tukang Besi archipelago, you will enjoy cruises of discovery and adventure to distant reefs, verdant island lagoons and fecund much-diving sites.

With a maximum of ten guests, Pelagian's cabins are well-appointed and spacious. The master suite provides all the comforts you would expect in an upscale hotel suite - and all other cabin levels are also roomy, with full en-suite shower rooms.

There is a vast salon, with a DVD player and flatscreen TV, which provides the social hub on board, and the immense camera room has plenty of room in which to prepare cameras and housings for the day's diving.

Diving is conducted from two custom-made RIB tenders equipped with twin 50hp outboards, tank racks and stainless-steel ladders, and cylinders are filled by a whip from the Pelagian, so gear can remain in the RIBs until the end of the cruise.

www.wakatobi.com/dive-yacht/intro

TAKE ADVANTAGE NOW!

To take advantage of this fantastic offer, or for more information, simply drop a line to: robert.parrington@wakatobi.com, or go to the website inquiry page: ***www.wakatobi.com/prices-booking/booking-trip-enquiry.***

NB: Voucher offer is valid for bookings confirmed and deposited before 28 February 2016 (other terms and conditions apply - see website for details).

Critter hunting, STATESIDE

West Palm Beach's Blue Heron Bridge might not seem like a diving hotspot, but as **WALT STEARNS** reveals, it is a goldmine for all sorts of weird-and-wonderful marine life

Photographs by **WALT STEARNS**

During most hours of the day, the waters around the foot of West Palm Beach's Blue Heron Bridge don't look very enticing. Like most intercoastal waterways in Florida, the colour holds that atypical brown, muddy hue denoting the underwater visibility around a metre, two at best. But, when the tide starts to come in, a transformation takes place. The water starts to become clear, and far more inviting.

During this hour (actually four hours total), local scuba instructors favour the small beach at Phil Foster Park below the foot of the bridge as the cheap seats for introducing their students to their first 'ocean' dive. In addition to an easy entry (just wade in), the depths are shallow (the deepest point is 5.5m), the bottom sandy, and best of all, underwater visibility can be extremely good, reaching in excess of 15 metres during the incoming tide.

To the local community of underwater macro photographers, the BHB was a well-kept secret spot for finding the most colourful and unique cryptic critters around. But like most things in the age of the Internet, photographers could not resist sharing their prize finds - from yellow longsnout seahorses (Hippocampus reidi) and shortnose batfish (Ogcocephalus nasutus) to even striated hairy frogfish (Antennarius striatus) - on underwater photography forums, and social media sites. To be expected, as more divers began to exalt the bridge as one of the 'best muck dives in the Tropical Atlantic or Caribbean', the genie was out of the bottle.

FORGET THE SCENERY, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE LOCALS

As a Palm Beach resident, I too still find the treasures that wait under the bridge both rewarding and challenging, as most of what we look for don't exactly advertise their position. That is because the bottom is not comprised of reef, but rather sand and silt, which can easily get stirred up. To the untrained eye, this 'mucky' type of bottom will appear deceptively lifeless. Yet this aquatic desert is home to a parade of small, strange, unique, and sometimes highly ornate, collection of very small bottom-dwelling creatures. That's what the Blue Heron Bridge is largely about.

To find many of the unique critters that reside here requires a sharp eye and a bit of patience. While some are a little more conspicuous, like the longsnout seahorse, which can come in shades of yellow to orange, others - like its cousin, the lined seahorse (Hippocampus errectus) - are marvellously well camouflaged, and far more difficult to spot.

Some of the more-interesting bottom-dwellers in this region are the predators that rely on camouflage to help them remain unseen; they lie-and-wait to ambush their prey at the most opportune time. Among this list of specialists are the odd-shaped fishes such as scorpionfish, Northern stargazers, four species of batfish and three species of frogfish.

But then there are a few that will reveal themselves when you least expect it. When disturbed, flying gurnards, along with their close relative, the bluespotted searobin (Prionotus roseus), take flight across the bottom, spreading their broad pectoral fins which display brilliant blue markings.

On the ornate side, divers will often find juvenile French and grey angelfish. These beauties are easily identified by their jet-black body colouration, which sports three deep gold body bars, with a small splash of royal blue in the lower pectoral fins. Having near-identical colouration and markings during their immature state makes it difficult to tell them apart. The trick begins with the tail.

On the juvenile grey, the back half of the tail is clear, whereas the French's tail is round, rimmed in gold with a solid black centre. Another distinctive trait is that the juvenile French is a cleaner fish, and it often uses a fluttering motion to advertise its services to rid other fish of bothersome parasites.

Other ornamental bottom-dwellers found here include the lantern bass (Serranus baldwini), featuring rows of orange rectangular blotches and spots across its body. Commonly found around bottom rubble, these little members of the grouper family (measuring 3cm to 10cm in length) are highly inquisitive, making them great subjects for photos.

It's not all sand and rubble on the bottom, there is also the occasional empty bottle or can, which also provide shelter for tiny creatures like octopus. The pilings supporting the bridge spans provide habitat much like the condos lining the beach on neighbouring Singer Island.

Among the hodgepodge brown-, pink- and orange-hued sponge growth lining the columns, divers and snorkelers will find a variety of small crustaceans like arrow crabs and banded coral shrimp, while schools of grunts, immature snapper and spadefish move about feeding in the current.

Moray eel shows its teeth

Red-lipped batfish

Eagle ray flypast

Adding to the bridge's venue, in 2012, the City of Riviera Beach, Florida, created the Phil Foster Park Snorkelling Trail in the shallows out front of the beach under the Blue Heron Bridge. To create the trail, more than 600 tons of Anastasia rock boulders were placed in varying sized piles to form a 244-metre-long artificial reef tract.

Down on the east end of the reef there are even a couple of small wrecks, which had found their way on their own to liven things up.

Water depth around the rock piles ranges between 2-3m, and in the short period of time that they have been there have now become a clear attractant to a host of fish and invertebrate life.

"Another distinctive trait is that the juvenile French is a cleaner fish, and it often uses a fluttering motion to advertise its services to rid other fish of bothersome parasites"

Juvenile angelfish

The variety of invertebrates that can be found between the bridge pilings and the new artificial reef is staggering. Along with the parade of crabs, shrimp, snails, octopus, sea stars and urchins, there is the sheer number of nudibranchs and sea slug species that have been identified here. Paul Humann and Ned Deloach's Reef Creature Identification book for Florida, Caribbean and the Bahamas lists approximately 49 species total; most of those listed have been identified here at Blue Heron Bridge.

Among the list of creatures sure to bring a thrill to visitors of the bridge are the resident horseshoe crabs that live in the Intracoastal Waterway. Horseshoe crabs are living fossils with an ancestry dating back 450,000 million years. Yet the body of this large marine arthropod, with its hard protective carapace and compound eyes, has undergone a minimum amount of change in all that time.

What can be found out around the bridge is not limited to only the small and unusual. On occasion, snorkelers and scuba divers can encounter a passing manatee. Southern stingrays and young eagle rays, more often swimming solo, but sometimes in small groups, will grant a beautiful fly by as they glide effortlessly above the bottom.

INS AND OUTS OF DIVING THE BLUE HERON BRIDGE

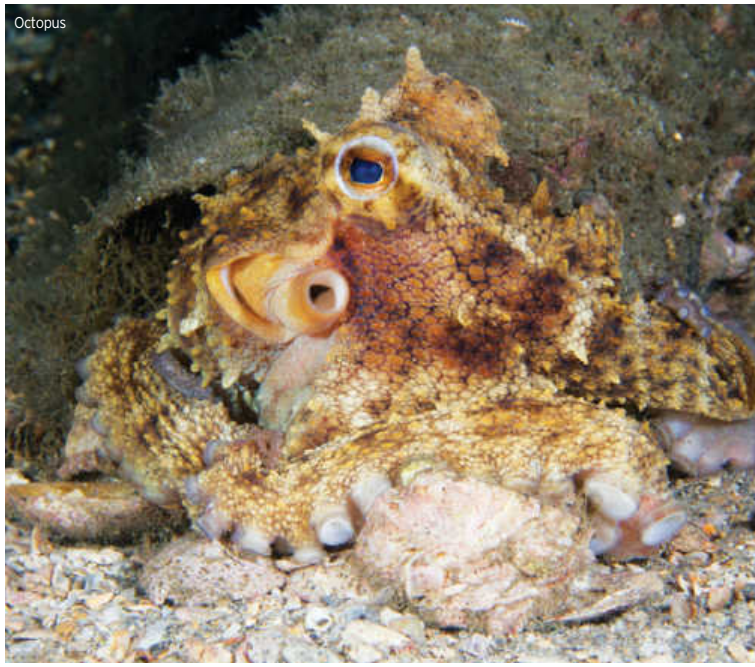
The bridge is part of Blue Heron Boulevard connecting Riviera Beach with Singer Island. Divers coming from the north or south on I-95 should take exit 76 and head east all the way to the first (larger) span of the bridge to Singer Island. Coming down the backside of the larger span there will be a lighted intersection for the entrance into Phil Foster Park, a small island comprised largely of a parking lot with a boat ramp and docks on the north side, with a small beach on the south side.

Diving at the bridge is quite easy, but there are a few important things to consider.

While parking is of course free, finding a place to park on some days (particularly weekends and holidays) will be first-come, first-served basis. So arrive early.

The most convenient spots for accessing the water are along the base of the bridge's larger span on the southwestern side of Phil Foster Park. This area includes a large section of the original Blue Heron Bridge, which now serves as local fishing pier. Depth range is 1.5m to 3.5m maximum.

Out front of the beach, several metres out, is the Phil Foster Park Snorkelling Trail, with a maximum depth of 3.4 meters.


Octopus

Batfish

Blue-spotted sea robin

Moving around to the east is the BHB's small bridge span connecting Phil Foster Park with Singer Island. Originally built in 1950, the small bridge generally has more growth on the pilings than the larger bridge span, but is also more prone for stronger currents during the middle phase of the rising tide. Nearby is a set of dock pilings that are also worth a look. Depths range from 4m to 5m.

Divers are required to carry a dive flag when diving any one of these three areas. If not, the authorities might hand you a ticket for not complying.

Hairy frogfish

"Some of the more-interesting bottom-dwellers in this region are the predators that rely on camouflage to help them remain unseen; they lie-and-wait to ambush their prey at the most opportune time"

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

The engine that drives both the abundance of marine life and clean water around the Blue Heron Bridge is the water that pours in through the Lake Worth Inlet during the incoming tide. The best clarity takes place during the last couple of hours before the high tide mark, which will require consulting the local tide chart (http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/noaatidepredictions/NOAATidesFacade.jsp?Stationid=8722588.)

Best time for diving around the bridge pilings is half an hour before the apex of the rising tide, when the current is easier to handle. Timed right, you will be able to enjoy an additional half hour almost current-free before conditions change as the tide reverses course, bringing with it the dirtier waters of the Intracoastal Waterway.

NIGHT DIVING

Although the Phil Foster Park is generally open from sunrise to sunset, night diving is allowed through special arrangements with some of the dive operators in the Riviera Beach/Singer Island area. Should you become a fan of bridge during the day, coming back at night is something worth looking into.

When the sun goes down, so begins the hour of the night beasts. Octopus and mantis shrimp emerge from their burrows and dens to forage for food. Among these nocturnal denizens, reef squid hang in the shadow of a diver's lights ready to snatch small unsuspecting fish or shrimp exposed by the illumination.

For night diving opportunities, inquire with the PBCDA members in the Lake Worth Inlet area. ■

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Your Buddies
are ready for the new year!

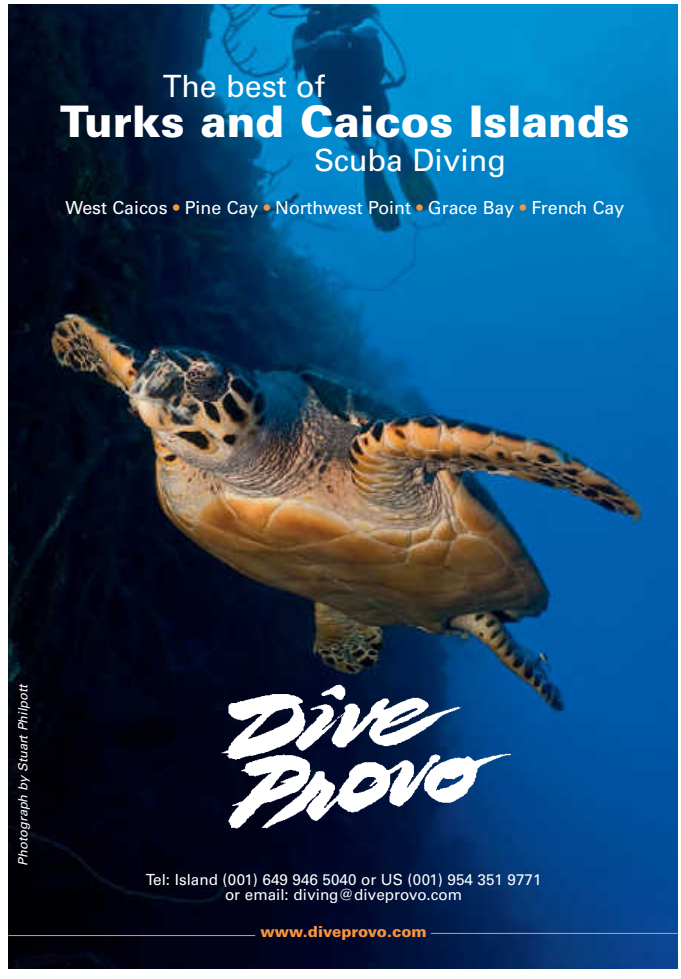
Check out our 2016 specials and plan your next dive trip on:
www.buddydive.com/specials

Buddy Dive
Bonaire & Dominica

Caribbean Club Bonaire
Dive, Relax & Explore

BELMAR Bonaire
Oceanfront Apartments

International reservations: +599 717 5080
www.buddydive.com



Bonaire | Grenada | Curacao | Saba | Aruba | St. Martin

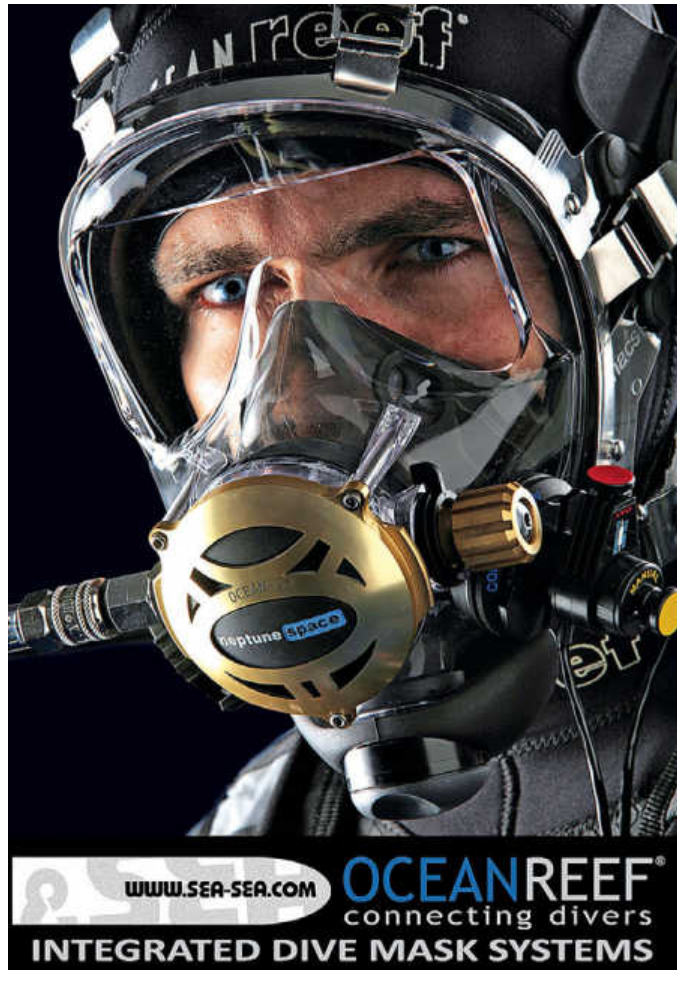
WE ARE THE SPECIALIST FOR THESE WONDERFUL CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

They include islands that have been voted:

- ★ BEST SHORE DIVING IN THE WORLD
- ★ BEST WRECK DIVING IN THE CARIBBEAN
- ★ BEST SNORKELLING
- ★ BEST FOR UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY
- ★ BEST LEARNER DIVER'S DESTINATION

We tailor-make holidays for divers and non-divers. We are the preferred tour operator - with exclusive rates - for many resorts on these islands. Contact us for a holiday quotation...

www.caribbeanfuntravel.co.uk
info@caribbeanfuntravel.co.uk • 01604 88 29 29



LETTERS

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY TO SHARE?
The author of our star letter will win a £50 voucher to spend on Miflex Hoses and associated products. So what are you waiting for? Email us.
letters@sportdiver.co.uk

SPONSORED BY www.KUBIstore.com

STAR LETTER

DCS, sure... but what about DVT?

Dear Sport diver,

We often hear about the dangers of decompression sickness/the bends but I want to raise awareness about Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT).
In September of this year I returned with my wonderful wife from yet another successful trip to the Dutch Antilles. It is a nine-and-a-half-hour flight from Bonaire to Schiphol in Holland and I/we have done this flight without incident many times before.
Two days after our return I noticed a lump on the side of my leg that was tender to the touch and the leg was slightly swollen. Doing the 'bloke thing' I chose to ignore it as I assumed I must have knocked it and that it would go away. Two weeks later, and with a lump that was now the size of an orange, the whole lower leg swollen and painful, I was frogmarched to the doctors where, upon examination, I was immediately sent to Accident and Emergency with a letter from the GP. At this point I still didn't think there was anything wrong and felt guilty for taking up everyone's time. I was seen almost immediately. The result? I was diagnosed with chronic DVT. The doctors and nurses who treated me (I cannot thank them enough for the treatment they gave me) said I was very lucky as blood clots can be a killer.
They asked why I had left it so long before seeking treatment, to which I replied: "I didn't want to bother anyone".
The treatment will take six months if all goes well. In the meantime I have to behave myself and take things easy and my diving has been severely limited until I'm given the all clear, which will of course mean a dive medical.
So, please, when planning your dive trips take into consideration the consequences of DVT and take the necessary precautions against it.

Dave, via email

KUBI DRY GLOVES
For more information, or to view the full range of KUBI products visit
www.KUBIstore.com
www.miflexhoseshop.co.uk

Buddy love

Hi Sport Diver,
I wanted to send a letter in for my longstanding buddy Martin.
Martin and I have been diving together for about 20 years and, as of this week just gone, Martin has decided to hang up his fins.
A few years my senior, it was Martin who taught me to dive back in the 1990s and who I completed all my courses with up to Rescue Diver. Our student/teacher relationship turned into friendship, which in turn became 'buddyship'.
Now in his 70s, the old dog has decided he'd prefer to stay dry from now on, but I'm sure he'll keep up with his Sport Diver!
Marty, it's been a pleasure mate - future trips won't quite be the same.

Euan Burns, via email

Prepare for the cold

Hi guys,
I'm writing to offer some sage advice to my fellow divers who enjoy a winter splash...
Firstly, anyone who's getting into UK waters at this time of year, kudos! With the quality of drysuit available nowadays, as well as dry gloves, thick hoods and fancy heated vests, etc, there really is no reason to stop getting in the water when the days get a little shorter.
That said, I've noticed on a couple of occasions now a few divers who are so shockingly unprepared for staying warm topside *after* a dive you really couldn't make it up. Why go through all the hassle to brave the water only to freeze once out of it.
Fleeces, hats, thermoses, a car new enough to provide heating...!

Bradley Kieron, via email

Malta or Red Sea?

It's about this time of year when I book my next holiday - I know that come February I'll have had enough of the UK and will need an escape. Having just this summer qualified as a PADI Open Water Diver I've decided to go on my fiRst dive trip. I'm very excited, but also very torn... Malta or the Red Sea?
I've been told that both locations are fantastic options - close, affordable, and, most importantly, top diving - but I just can't make my mind up.
I'm inclined to go for Egypt, but there are obviously complications with that choice at the moment, though I'm sure come February all will be fine.
Can you help Sport Diver? Or fellow readers?

Julian Denver, via email

SEALED WITH A KISS

Tempting a warm-water-loving wife back into a drysuit and British coastal conditions was never going to be easy, so **MARK EVANS** enlisted the help of some furry friends at the Farne Islands

Photographs by **MARK EVANS**

A rendezvous for tea and coffee

Fin nibbling is a favoured pastime

Penney soon got used to her new RoHo drysuit

The thick kelp was whipping wildly in the surge, often going in the opposite direction to us, and I could see from the look in her eyes that my wife Penney was not doing well. She gets a bit seasick at the best of times, and being in just a few metres washed helplessly around by the movement of the sea, surrounded by undulating kelp fronds, the feeling of nausea was growing by every second. It was only being exacerbated by the fact that this was her first drysuit dive in saltwater in a long time. I had the feeling that if the star attraction of the Farne Islands didn't put in an appearance soon, it might well end up being her last!

Right on cue, a flash of silvery grey shot past my right shoulder, pulled an impossibly fast turn behind Penney and then nestled in the kelp under her fins, its big brown eyes twisting the cuteness factor up to 11. I motioned for her to remain still and tried to bring my camera to bear. Keeping its eyes locked on mine, it opened its mouth and took one of Penney's Scubapro Seawing Nova fins between its teeth and gave it a good tug. As she spun round to see her attacker, it let go and vanished into the murk with an effortless flick of its flippers. Penney turned back to me, a look of delight clearly evident in her eyes - she was still queasy, but the arrival of the grey seal gave her something to focus on and any thoughts of aborting the dive were forgotten.

For the next 50 minutes, we were buzzed by several different seals, but Penney's original fin-tormentor, a lovely mottled young adult, became her nemesis. It would sneak up behind her and grab her fin tip, give it a good shake and then take off in an instant before she had time to spin around. I was getting front-row seating to this battle royale, but I could tell that Penney was getting frustrated at not being able to really see the seal. As if taking pity on her, our furry friend then began to slowly cruise around our perimeter, giving us both plenty of time to get a good look at its sleek lines, and by the time we were climbing up the ladder back on to our RIB, Penney was grinning from ear to ear. Seals encountered - mission accomplished!

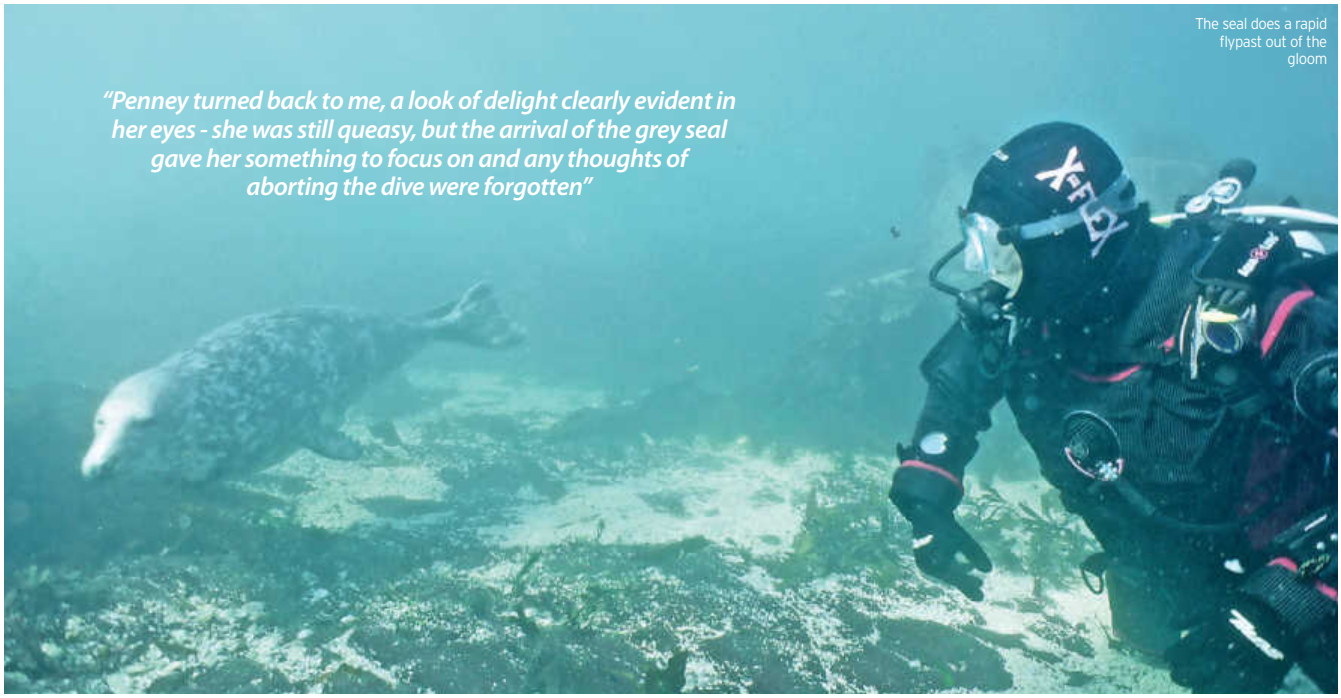
"You can head up and dive the Farne Islands as an individual or couple, but I highly recommend doing it with a club, as it makes the whole weekend into an experience"

THE SEALS OF THE FARNES

While there are plenty of scenic reefs and the odd wreck dive around the Farne Islands, these little specks of land just off the Northumberland coast would probably not have the enormous following they currently enjoy among the British diving fraternity if it wasn't for the colony of grey seals that call them home. People will happily travel up from the far reaches of the South Coast to spend time in the water with these charismatic mammals.

The Farnes actually have the UK's largest population of Atlantic grey seals, some 5,000 plus in total, with numbers increasing every year. More than 1,500 pups are born on the islands annually, mostly in October and November.

We completed two dives at the Farne Islands, at two different locations, and while the second didn't offer up such a close and extended encounter with the seals as the first, it was still a great little dive, and with the relative lack of seals I found myself seeking out 'normal' UK dive fodder, including edible crabs, velvet swimming crabs, etc, and on this front they also delivered.



The seal does a rapid flypast out of the gloom

"Penney turned back to me, a look of delight clearly evident in her eyes - she was still queasy, but the arrival of the grey seal gave her something to focus on and any thoughts of aborting the dive were forgotten"

The seals will come in nice and close

A welcome chocolate bar between dives

"Nothing to see, I am not chewing fins. Honest"

JOIN THE CLUB

We had ventured up to the Farne Islands as a couple of last-minute additions to a scheduled Robin Hood Watersports Dive Club weekend trip. When Penney was being measured up for her X-Flex drysuit (see Long Term Test on page 90-91), RoHo stalwart Sally Findlow had talked about various club trips that were coming up, and she was waxing lyrical about the Farnes. A short time later and our names were on the list, along with a mix of individuals, couples and families with children - the great thing about the islands is that you don't even need to dive to enjoy them, you can see the seals while snorkelling, which means they are open to everyone.

You can head up and dive the Farne Islands as an individual or couple, but I highly recommend doing it with a club, as it makes the whole weekend into an experience. The banter started as soon as everyone began to arrive on the Friday evening at the accommodation - the fantastic Springhill Bunkhouse, which boasted great views of the Farnes and Bamburgh Castle, and was just a few minutes' drive from Seahouses Harbour, where the dive boats would depart from. This friendly mickey-taking was no doubt aided by the fact that we were in the midst of the Rugby World Cup and had rival supporters in our ranks!

After the two dives with the seals on the Saturday, everyone congregated for fish and chips in Seahouses before heading back to the accommodation in dribs and drabs to take a shower and get changed before

Damo displaying his ace cooking skills on the 'braai'

The bunkhouse balcony offers stunning views of Bamburgh Castle...

...and the Farne Islands themselves

The seals dart in and out of the kelp, dazzling you with their turn of speed

the main event - a group barbecue on the Bunkhouse balcony that night. Actually, we should refer to it as a 'braai', as the chef for the evening was South African-born Damian Groves. Damo, as he is known, is Sally's other half, and on these weekend trips, they supply the barbecue coals and a 'cook', all guests need to do is bring whatever food they want to eat, beverages of their choice, and then it all ends up being one massive party, with everyone bound together by the camaraderie that lies at the core of diving.

The following day, nothing was planned, so guests were welcome to explore the local area, which includes Hadrian's Wall, Lindisfarne and Alnwick Castle, arrange their own dives at the Farnes if they hadn't had their fill of the seals, or head for home.

The weekend trip was great fun, and it was nice to hang out with divers and snorkellers of every age and experience level. Sally and Damo are the consummate hosts, genuinely open and friendly while at the same time very professional with the organisation. The Springhill Bunkhouse made a warm, comfortable base of operations, and the diving services provided aboard Billy Shiel's Glad Tidings hardboat and Ocean Explorer RIB (www.farneislandsdiving.co.uk) were first-class and couldn't be faulted.

The Robin Hood Watersports Dive Club has the Farnes on their diary several times a year. For details of the next weekend trip to Northumberland - or any of their other forthcoming dive holidays both here in the UK and abroad - check out: **www.roho.co.uk/watersports/Dive-Adventures.html** ■

British owned and operated PADI dive centre

SAFARI DIVING LANZAROTE

PADI

PADI

Time now to book your Winter holiday. Come to Lanzarote – the safe all year round resort – ideal for all the family!

An example price:
7 dives with tank and weights and a self-catering apartment for two (less than 3 mins walk from the centre)

ONLY £189PP!

Just look for flights and contact Wendy!

Ideal location for all divers, including larger groups

SAFARI DIVING

www.SAFARIDIVING.com

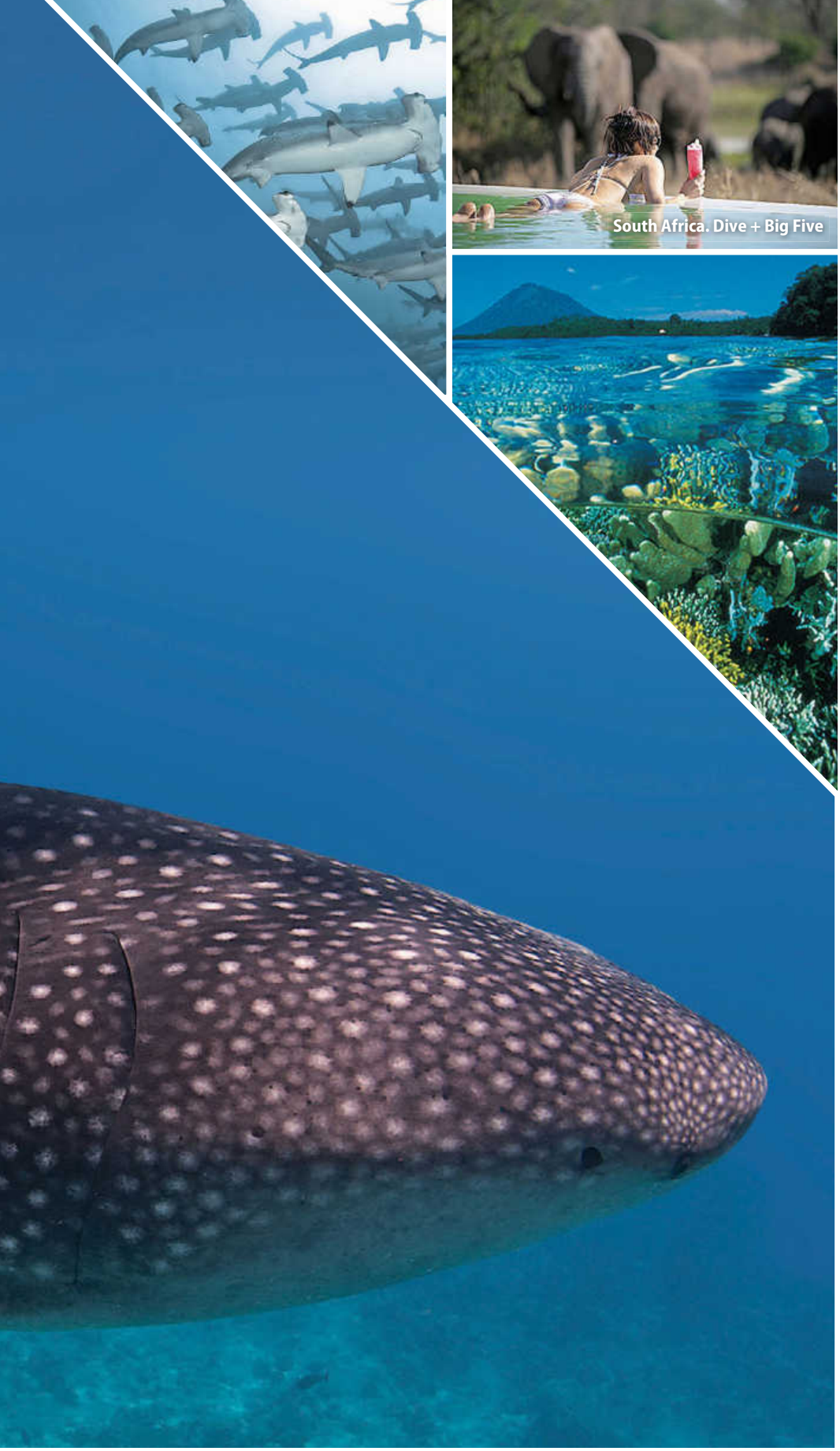
Email: enquiry@safaridiving.com • Telephone: 0034 625 059 713

TAILOR-MADE WORLDWIDE DIVE HOLIDAYS

- AZORES
- CAYMAN ISLANDS
- COCOS ISLAND
- CUBA
- EGYPT
- GALAPAGOS
- INDONESIA
- JORDAN
- MALDIVES
- MALTA & GOZO
- OMAN
- PALAU AND YAP
- PHILIPPINES
- SOCORRO
- SOUTH
- SUDAN
- TRUK LAGOON

- Tailor-made holidays from people who have been there
- Honest, expert advice; well-informed recommendations
- Great value, competitive rates, exclusive offers

CALL ONE OF OUR FRIENDLY TRAVEL ADVISORS FOR YOUR TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY TODAY



Freephone 0800 915 4436
info@diversetravel.co.uk
www.diversetravel.co.uk

T7558 ATOL PROTECTED

Diverse TRAVEL

TALES FROM THE TANK

BY MATT MARTIN, DIVE OFFICER, BLUE PLANET AQUARIUM

CREDIT: ZOE AMANDA SMITH

Blue Planet Aquarium is currently promoting its Christmas Dive Sale. We have up to 37 percent off our Dive products. If you are a certified diver, novice diver, junior diver or interested in sharks and their conservation, we may have the perfect gift idea for yourselves or family and friends.

Every year we run a sale in the approach to Christmas, and for an additional five percent off the website listed sale price, quote 'Dive Show' when booking. The sales price will then be reduced to a 20 percent discounted rate for the Shark Encounter, certified Shark Dive and Shark Awareness courses. The Junior Shark Encounter will retail at the listed 37 percent discount price.

The water is warm, clear and teeming with sharks, including two new female guitarfish we are re-homing after they were donated from our sister aquarium in Lyon.

Blue Planet Aquarium will be hosting three new large lemon sharks in 2016 - their arrival is imminent and you will be able to meet them in the New Year. It will be a huge change in the population dynamic when they are introduced, and we have our fingers crossed that their arrival goes smoothly.

For now, and not to tempt too much fate, I won't say any more, however we will keep Sport Diver readers updated with their progress once they are acclimated to the main tank.

Exciting times ahead for the dive team and our customers. We look forward to seeing you in 2016 and taking you to dive with our sharks! ■

BLUE PLANET AQUARIUM, Longlooms Road, Cheshire Oaks, Cheshire, CH65 9LF
Tel: **0151 357 8804** | Email: **info@blueplanetaquarium.co.uk** | Website: **www.blueplanetaquarium.co.uk**

AQUANAUTS GRENADA

MORE THAN WRECKS...

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

Grenada is well known for its wreck diving - after all, we have the 'Titanic of the Caribbean', the Bianca C. But what is perhaps less well known about this South Caribbean island is the beauty of its coral reefs and variety of marine life. With over ten miles of reef just off our shores, we have reef diving for all levels of divers and snorkellers.

Almost every dive will bring schools of Creole wrasse, blue chromis, French grunts and blue tangs to within inches of the divers. Longsnout seahorses and longlure frogfish are not as rare as they are made out to be in our tropical waters. We are frequently treated to green and hawksbill turtles, and if you are lucky enough to be here during nesting season, we have leatherback turtles which nest on the local beaches.

Spotted eagle rays, roughtail stingrays and southern stingrays are a familiar sight on our dive sites on the southern Atlantic side of the island. Diving on the Atlantic side of Grenada will also bring you nurse and Caribbean reef sharks, along with large numbers of lobster and king crabs.

If the big stuff doesn't interest you, we have plenty of small stuff, too. Flamingo tongues, lettuce seaslugs, nudibranchs, flatworms, sea goddesses and blennies are always a great find for those with eagle eyes, or just ask one of our experienced dive guides to be on the lookout for you. Grenada is home to a number of octopus and squid, many of whom don't need to wait till dark to come out to play.

So what are you waiting for? Come and join us for a party in Grenada. ■

the Art of Diving

WWW.AQUANAUTSGRENADA.COM

VENTURA

MORE THAN A Pretty Face

The Miss Scuba UK beauty pageant got off to a fairly rocky start, but new organisers in 2015 aimed to turn things around and put a real spotlight on the 'scuba' aspect. **STUART PHILPOTT** reveals how they managed it

Photographs by **STUART PHILPOTT**

"Okay, one, two, three and hold!" Click-click. Just to set the scene, there are a number of gorgeous-looking girls wearing swimsuits and scuba kit walking out of the sea towards me. Apart from me, the camera guy, there is an entourage of helpers holding light reflectors, dive kit and yet more cameras, all on the beach at a stupidly early 6am in the morning. Welcome to Miss Scuba UK!

Last year's Miss Scuba UK finals, held at El Gouna in Egypt, was slated by the diving press with claims of very little 'scuba' in the contest. This led to the appointment of new organisers Jill Faulkner, Susan Booth and Jaime Lee-Faulkner (Jaime Lee-Faulkner was the winner of 2013's Miss Scuba International contest). With a solid background in running pageants but minimal diving industry experience, they took advice from old hands Steve Rattle and Clare Meadows, based at Roots Red Sea in El Quseir, among others. How would this year's contest fair?

The 2015 event kicked off at Cutlers Hall in Sheffield, where five finalists were chosen from a total of 40 contestants. I saw the pictures on social media rather than attending the event in person. There were plenty of glamorous dresses and sparkling tiaras, but from my understanding, the goal was to find a worthy ambassador for the UK diving industry, which meant choosing a down-to-earth girl who could actually 'speak' and 'go' diving predominantly here at home.

The opportunity to photograph five great-looking girls all in the same week doesn't come along too often, so when Steve asked me to cover the contest, I instantly said 'yes'. But I was surprised by the deluge of derogatory comments I received from diving friends and colleagues, for example 'where's the snot and mask squeeze marks, messy bird's nest hair, the real diving look' and 'beauty pageants are a tad naff, I thought they had died out in the 1970s'. Over the past 20 years of diving and travelling, I have learnt not to be judgemental, especially without knowing all the facts first.

A week after Sheffield I got to meet the Miss Scuba UK organisers and all five finalists during a pool training/refresher session at Chelmsford, organised by Matt Bacon, the owner of Fin Divers. I'm not 100 percent sure about the rules, but as far as I know the girls don't have to be qualified divers to enter the contest. Out of the five finalists, Hannah Higgins and Laura Gregory had recently completed a PADI Open Water Diver course;

Proud to Sponsor & Host the Finale Week of
Miss Scuba United Kingdom 2015
If Pharaoh Dive Club did Dive Buddies .....
www.pharaohdiveclub.com
PHARAOH
DIVE CLUBS
RED SEA

ROOTS
RED SEA
The Jewel of the Red Sea
Roots Red Sea at El Quseir
2015
TRAVELLERS'
CHOICE
tripadvisor
Dive & Stay
Special Offers
from
£275 per person
The Home of Miss Scuba United Kingdom Finale Week 2015
For more details - info@rootsredsea.com
www.rootsredsea.com

Eventual winner Sarah modelling in the pool

Mariko Winterbottom and Emily Kishere were already qualified divers, so only Helen MacGregor was a complete beginner. I managed to take my first promo shots of the girls handing over an oversized cheque to injured servicemen from charity Deptherapy - £2,500 was raised during the event. While the Miss Scuba UK entourage headed off to Cyprus for a gentle 'warm up' week, I prepared for a complete 'beasting' at Roots Red Sea in Egypt, where the overall winner would eventually be unveiled.

Steve had put together an extremely ambitious timetable. Over the next seven days we had virtually no down time from dawn till dusk. But before the girls had set foot at Roots Red Sea, there was a dramatic set-back. I was told that Emily had pulled out due to certain unforeseen 'health issues'. Sadly, the final five had already been reduced to four.

So why choose Egypt for the Miss Scuba UK finals? Steve explained: "The event promotes diving in the UK and represents the UK; a lot of the preliminary events were conducted there. We are a UK operation in Egypt, which is our link, we receive a lot of UK divers every year coming out for a dive holiday, that's part of UK diving".

For the diving sceptics out there, I will briefly sum up the highlights from Roots Red Sea finals week. After the opening evening presentations, we were up at 6am almost every morning for a beach photoshoot. The plan was to get pictures for personal portfolios and for T-shirt brand Uwahu, Aqualung dive gear and Sandstorm swimwear brochure/website promos, etc. In all I took more than 1,000 shots throughout the week.

After breakfast there followed a variety of daily diving-based activities. Lauren Clayton, a marine biology student on secondment from Glasgow Uni, had organised a marine ID course which involved classroom sessions and underwater work. Another day Steve arranged a beach clean-up at Abu Hamra shore-diving site involving the local residents. The mound of rubbish collected in just two hours was quite scary, especially the amount of discarded plastic water bottles. Roots Red Sea also hosted a full-blown PADI Advanced Open Water Diver course so all of the girls gained another diving certification. On other days there was a kindergarten visit in El Quseir, umpteen boat dives, shore dives, underwater modelling sessions in the swimming pool and on the house reef, a sneaky DPV session and yet more non-stop action. Steve said: "This wasn't a sunbathing holiday with a couple of dives, we were up early every day to go diving or take part in other diving-related events, it was a proper dive trip. In doing that we really got to see who would really make the best ambassador for the UK diving industry, and that changed daily!"

Visiting a local kindergarten in Egypt

"I didn't see any swish sparkly dresses and false eyelashes, just dripping wet hair and swimsuits and maybe the odd smear of snot!"

Underwater modelling while using DPVs

The girls completing a pool session in the UK

Roots Red Sea had arranged a spectacular final's night party, including fireworks, flame throwers, a whirling dervish and even a mini fashion show. The highlight of the evening had to be the girl's James Bond-style underwater entrance, devised by Steve of course. I didn't see any swish sparkly dresses and false eyelashes, just dripping wet hair and swimsuits and maybe the odd smear of snot!

The Miss Scuba UK organisers asked me to be a judge, which was a nice gesture but it's not easy to pick out an overall winner when all of the girls had worked so hard and I could see such a huge improvement in everyone's buoyancy and overall confidence underwater, especially Helen, who had only completed her PADI Open Water Diver course a few weeks prior to Roots. But there could only be one winner. The questions were quite specific, and I had to score each girl in descending order.

The announcements were made and Sarah Mariko Winterbottom was crowned Miss Scuba UK 2015. I sat down for a quick chat with her the morning after the celebrations. Sarah, 26, lives and works in London. She completed her PADI Open Water Diver in Koh Tao seven years ago and has approximately 40 logged dives to date. Sarah said: "My diving skills have improved a lot this week. It's been an incredible experience, intense, but rewarding." Sarah, who recently completed a 10km Bear Grylls survival

Underwater modelling is a whole different ballgame to posing before the camera topside

The beach clean-up yielded a huge pile of rubbish and waste

Sarah took the plunge in Capernwray in early November in a drysuit

race for charity, said her scariest moment of the week was turning the lights off on the night dive (mine was spending hours air-brushing out Sarah's bruises thanks to Bear Grylls). With regards to Roots Red Sea, Sarah said: "The hospitality and generosity from everybody has been amazing, particularly the level of instruction. On the diving side I feel completely prepared for the next step, and will be completing my Rescue Diver course over Christmas while on holiday in Thailand". The Miss Scuba UK title gave Sarah an automatic entry into the international contest being held at Mabul Island in Malaysia. So good luck, Sarah! Since returning from Egypt, Sarah has notched up her first UK dive and a Drysuit Specialty course at Capernwray with Dream Divers. She commented: "Diving in the UK was a very different experience to the Mediterranean, Red Sea and Thailand - it was so cold! It was great learning to dive in a drysuit, and I am very happy I now have my Drysuit Specialty as I plan on doing far more in British waters in 2016".

I think the new organisers have made a huge impact to this year's Miss Scuba UK programme, which goes a long way to restoring confidence and credibility in the dive industry. Steve, Clare and all of the Roots Red Sea staff couldn't have been any more supportive and played an important role in making the event happen. Hopefully they will be repeating the performance again next year. One thing is for sure, no one can say there wasn't enough 'scuba' in this year's contest, and I can personally vouch for that! Miss Scuba UK organiser Susan Booth said: "We are not from a diving background but we have learnt to dive and are continuing to learn. We realised early on that it would be an uphill struggle to gain credibility in the dive world because of the misconceptions about pageants, but we have had invaluable help and support from a couple of people in the UK diving industry. Moving forward we aim to build on this year's success by doing more and varied UK diving - in fact, the initial Open Water Diver courses and diving for the 2016 competition will be done right here in this country."

Scuba diving, particularly here in the UK, is very much a male-orientated sport, so seeing a few more girls about the place can't be a bad thing. The Miss Scuba UK contest isn't just another pageant. It can be used as a tool to promote awareness and spotlight conservation issues as well as raise money for worthy charities, so where is the harm in that? Looking attractive shouldn't create such a negative response. All of the finalists were either studying for or had completed a university degree, so had brains as well as beauty. Miss Scuba UK 2016 applications will be available soon. ■

RED SEA DIVING

FREE Buddy Diving • FREE Group Places
Liveaboards – Great Range, Great Value!

egypt Live the Magic www.egypt.travel

- LIVEABOARDS
- HURGHADA
- EL GOUNA
- SAFAGA
- SOMA BAY
- EL QUSEIR
- MARSA ALAM
- HAMATA
- SHARM
- DAHAB
- NUWEIBA & MORE

© Bruce Coleman/Photoshot

26 YEARS OF DIVING WWW.REGALDIVE.CO.UK

Regaldive
THE DIVING HOLIDAY SPECIALISTS

01353 659999
www.regaldive.co.uk

ABTA ATOL PADI Diving Society

dive holiday designers

egypt Live the Magic

The Red Sea Dive Specialists

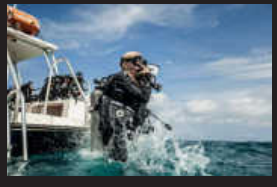
Red Sea Diving Holidays Designed for You
Sharm el Sheikh • Hurghada • El Gouna
Soma Bay • El Quseir
Marsa Alam • Liveaboards

Call our specialist Dive Holiday Designers on
Tel: 020 3384 0024 or visit our website:
www.diveholidaydesigners.com

100% Financial Protection

tta U9341

WRECKS REEFS BOAT TEC PADI COURSES



DIVING IN SPAIN

With the Costa del Sol's only British PADI 5 Star CDC dive centres

located in Malaga and Marbella

simply diving
Costa del Sol, Spain

www.simplydiving.com
dive@simplydiving.com
(0034) 600 506 526

SEA SCUBAPRO EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION scubapro.com

PADI CDC Career Development Center

SCHOLARSHIP DIARY

The Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society is a non-profit, educational organisation whose mission is to promote educational activities associated with the underwater world. It has offered scholarships for more than 35 years.
owuscholarship.org

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMON SHARKS...

Text by **DANNY COPELAND**

"Anthony, come back to Tristan… come back to Tristan." Anthony quickly picked up his walkie-talkie, while continuing to casually bounce our little boat across the rolling waves. "Anthony to Tristan, go ahead."

"Just thought you'd like to know… we have one… a great hammerhead just turned up." Everyone on the boat went silent, and looked over at Anthony with growing smiles. "Did she just say hammer-…" "Thanks Tristan, we're on our way!"

My tour of North America recently saw me heading off to Bimini, a small unsuspecting island on the western edge of the Bahamas. If you haven't been before, don't let the island's sleepy Caribbean vibe fool you. Bimini is one of the most-exciting places to visit as a diver, particularly if you're a fan of sharks!

I recently spent five days at the Bimini Biological Field Station, more commonly known as the Shark Lab, to take part in a Research Experience week. Set up by Samuel 'Doc' Gruber, this miniature lab nestled inside a mobile-home has spent the last 25 years researching the array of different shark and ray species in the waters around Bimini, in order to advance our understanding of these misunderstood fishes. In addition to pioneering research, the Shark Lab regularly conducts outreach activities to engage the public in their work, and the five-day Research Experience is their most-recent brainchild. I have wanted to visit the Shark Lab since I was 16 years old, so needless to say it was a dream come true when the opportunity to visit finally surfaced.

The general gist of the Research Experience week is to give participants a crash course in as many of the Shark Lab's research activities as possible. So when we touched down in Bimini around midday on day one, Anthony (the lab's Outreach Co-ordinator) wasted no time in getting us stuck in. Within a few hours we were out at sea, dangling on a safety rope while the crew chucked a few tubs of bait into the water. In even fewer minutes, we were treated to a dozen Caribbean reef sharks circling the boat at eye level only a few metres away - an awesome way to kick-start the week!

On the way back to base, Anthony received word that the Lab's Director, Dr Tristan Guttridge, and his team of interns had successfully baited in a great hammerhead! By the time our little skiff had pulled up alongside theirs, the three-metre female affectionately known as Medusa could be seen some 10m below, circling the baited line. In the last few years, the Lab has kick-started a new project to study the movement patterns of these elusive and charismatic sharks, who can be seen with some regularity in Bimini between December to March each year. On this occasion, the original plan was to catch the hammerhead on the baited line, bring her up to the side of the boat, collect various body measurements and tissue samples for genetic analysis before releasing her, all in under 15 minutes in order to minimise any stress to the animal. But oh-ho-ho, Medusa was far too clever for us. She tactically picked away at every other piece of bait that Tristan and the team put onto the sandy bottom, all the while ignoring the piece that was attached to the line. It was already late in the afternoon, and after an hour of patiently waiting for Medusa to play ball, Tristan made the executive decision to leave her be and let us jump in to snorkel with her for as long as she would stick around. I'll tell you now, freediving down to a clear, empty sandy bottom in the Bahamas to spend a minute at eye-level with a great hammerhead at sunset was one of the most-incredible wildlife encounters I've experienced to date.

The next day we were taught how to safely catch and handle baby lemon and nurse sharks held in the red-netted ocean pen, before getting stuck in and collecting size measurements and tissue samples ourselves. That same evening we went on to learn how these juvenile sharks are captured in the first place, by going out into the shallows around the island and surveying a temporary wall of lemon-shark-specific gill nets. The process involved walking up and down the nets, in waist-high water, every 15 minutes to minimise the amount of time any juveniles were caught in the line. While the surveys were hard work and dominated by pesky mosquitoes from the neighbouring mangroves, enjoying the insanely stunning night sky between each survey was something I'd never tire of.

The coming days were jam-packed with too many activities to recount here in detail. Visiting the Shark Lab was a truly special experience for me. I believe engaging people, getting them up close and personal with marine life and involved in the research process is an immensely powerful way of reconnecting people with the oceans. The Shark Lab really have nailed this method of reconnection in their outreach activities, particularly the Research Experience. Their work is not only advancing our understanding of sharks and rays, but is changing the mind-sets of people who may previously have been nervous, even terrified, of these animals. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to Doc, Tristan, Anthony and the team at the Shark Lab, as well as my friends Jeff and Missy Trotta, for providing such an incredible experience and helping make a dream of mine come true! ■

Danny Copeland

Commercial Diving - Are you Up for It?

Take your love of diving to the next level and train as a commercial diver; Chris Chell has done just that, and here he explains why he'd encourage others to take that step:

'Before training to be a commercial diver I worked as a welder for a heavy engineering firm. At the time I was a keen SCUBA diver and mixing my hobby with my previous employment seemed to lead to commercial diving.

'At the Birmingham Dive Show I got the chance to speak to Ali MacLeod, Air Diving Manager at The Underwater Centre, Fort William, after which I was sure that the Centre was where I wanted to complete my commercial diving training. With my background, I chose to do the Construction Career Package, which gave additional training on welding and burning in a subsea environment. I found the instructors to be very professional and all very helpful. No questions were left unanswered.

'I'm currently working as an inshore supervisor and diver in the shipping industry. The equipment used by commercial divers in shipping is very specialised so when you first start there is still an element of on the job training; however the Construction Career Package gives you the tools knowledge and experience needed to get the job in the first place. My first job was blanking the bow thruster on a Royal Navy minesweeper at night – nobody said it was going to be easy!

'For me, the best aspect of being a commercial diver is the travel. I've replaced stern seals in the Bahamas and removed cofferdams in Doha. The hours can be hard, but there's nothing better than the feeling you get after a hard job done well.'

What do I need to get started? To work as a commercial diver you have to have the HSE diving certifications; HSE SCUBA and Surface Supplied allow you to work inshore and HSE Surface Supplied Top Up (using a wet bell) allows you to work offshore, where there is an increase in pay.

Sport diving qualifications generally don't allow you to take any shortcuts with the HSE training, however any experience you have under the water will help you to get ahead; being comfortable underwater is half the experience. After a while you will eventually forget that you're underwater, breathing through a helmet from the surface, and just focus on the environment around you and the job in hand.

Could I do it? If you're thinking of taking the step of going from leisure diving to commercial, Chris has this to say, 'There's definitely a niche for most people, if you're willing to put in the hours, both to find the job and see it through. You have to be willing to call round dive companies. Just keep at it.' Visit **www.theunderwatercentre.com** or call **01397 703 786.**

THE UNDERWATER CENTRE
FORT WILLIAM

GO UP IN THE DIVING WORLD

Commercial diving offers you the potential for job satisfaction, good earnings and worldwide travel. We offer specialist career packages delivering first class diver training to get your new career started.

Contact us now to have a go at commercial diving on our next Introductory Day:
+44 1397 703786, fortwilliam@theunderwatercentre.com, www.theunderwatercentre.com
or scan the QR code to find out more.

SCUBALAB WHAT'S NEW

OCEANIC MANTA RAY FINS | £110 (TBC) (€156.23)

The Oceanic Manta Ray fins use three advanced materials to simulate the shape and mechanics of marine animals. These three different materials come together to create a strong, powerful and yet lightweight fin with superior propulsion. The blade incorporates winglets on each side which are designed to increase efficiently and improve manoeuvrability. The fins will be available in a wide choice of colours and features a new Easy Buckle Adjustment (EBA) system for quick fine tuning of the spring strap, and a large thumb loop and heel pad for easy fitting and comfort.
www.oceanicuk.com

HOLLIS LX 200 DCX | £450 (TBC) (€639.11)

The 200LX DCX is an entirely new high-performance regulator featuring the DCX, an environmentally sealed over-balanced diaphragm first stage with swivelling low-pressure turret, all coated with an incredibly tough PVD coating, and the 200LX pneumatically balanced second stage, that has been designed to be reversible for right or left hand configuration.
The 200LX DCX only needs to be serviced every two years and as with all Hollis regulators bought and registered in the UK, the 200LX DCX is covered by a lifetime warranty which includes free service parts.
www.hollis.com

APEKS DRY BAG RANGE | £24-£104 (€34.09-€147.70)

Apeks have brought out a range of tough, durable dry bags to complements their regulator, fin, drysuit and BCD collection.
The Dry100 (£104) is a waterproof roll top duffel with an 84cm wide mouth opening made from 1000D Nylon Core 0.6mm Tarpaulin. It is designed to be rugged and protect your gear from the most extreme environments. A polymer reinforced foam pad on the bottom helps reduce impact force and wearing, and doubles as a trolley cart sleeve. A removable side pocket features a splash-proof zipper with an easy grip puller. The changing mat is double layered Tarpaulin, there are removable air mesh backpack straps, and compression straps with a comfortable haul handle.

The Dry75 (£92) is also made from 1000D Nylon Core 0.6mm Tarpaulin to protect your gear. The main compartment features a drain plug for rinsing your gear on the go, and the removable core is 500D Nylon Core 0.4mm Tarpaulin to separate your wet gear from your dry gear. The bottom is a polymer reinforced foam pad to help reduce impact and wearing, the top flap is a splash-proof pocket, and there are four attachment points for the Apeks Dry12.

The Dry12 (£30) is again made from 1000D Nylon Core 0.6mm Tarpaulin. The webbing is 2.5cm pp Nylon with Molle straps for attaching small pouches and accessories. The tribuckles and carabiners are stainless steel with a metallic black coating. The ends of the adjustable straps are designed to weave in and out of the tribuckles easily - this is a fail-safe system in case the carabiners get damaged.

The Dry Inner Bag (£24) is made of durable 500D Nylon Core 0.4mm Tarpaulin. The grey colour reflects heat when in the sun, reducing internal and external temperatures. Waterproof heat welded seams protect your kit and keep your wet gear from leaking out.
www.apeks.co.uk

SCUBAPRO MANTIS M2
£799 (€1,134.77) incl. transmitter and HRM belt

Offering everything a recreational diver wants, and everything a technical diver needs, the M2 is a wristwatch-style dive computer like no other. The M2 is loaded with topside features and underwater functions, including hoseless air integration and electronic navigation, plus it incorporates cutting-edge biometrics through Human Factor Diving that enable you to live your life in dive mode.
www.scubapro.co.uk

SCUBAPRO NOVALIGHT 720 SERIES | from £89 (€126.40)

The Novalight family has evolved! The 720 series has an integrated overpressure valve, two modes as well as a real 730 lumen output. Choose from standard, rechargeable and wide beam.
www.scubapro.co.uk

NANIGHT SPORT | £245 (€349)

Nanight are a Swedish-made brand of dive lights that are going to make a big splash in the UK marketplace, thanks to a combination of durable build quality, great performance and wallet-friendly prices.
The anodised aluminium Sport comes in a nifty padded carry case, that holds the light itself, the charger and the different lenses - you can quickly and easily fit 12 degree, 35 degree and 55 degree lenses to alter the beam as needs require.
The burn time on full power is one and a half hours, but you get another hour on ten percent power as an emergency back-up. Recharge time is four hours.
It is available in black, red or blue, comes with a lantern-style and soft Goodman handle, and is depth-rated to 200m.
www.reeldiving.se

NANIGHT TECH | £395 (€562)

The anodised aluminium Tech umbilical comes in a nifty padded carry case, that holds the light head and battery itself, the charger and the different lenses - as with the Sport, you can quickly and easily fit 12 degree, 35 degree and 55 degree lenses to alter the beam as needs require. The burn time on full power is three hours, but you get another hour on ten percent power as an emergency back-up. Recharge time is four hours. It is available in black, red or blue, comes with soft Goodman handle, and is depth-rated to 100m.
www.reeldiving.se

SCUBALAB GEAR GUIDE

Each month, the Sport Diver test team assembles to rate and review a selection of diving equipment from a range of manufacturers. This issue:

F p e

FINS. Fins are an essential part of the diver's arsenal - without them, you aren't going anywhere, literally! Fins provide propulsion and power us off on our underwater adventures. We split the fins into three price brackets - under £50, £50-£100, and over £100 - and then assembled the Test Team to venture into the chilly waters of Vivian Quarry in the heart of Snowdonia in North Wales in September for the annual review. This issue we are focusing on the top-of-the-line range to see what is available in today's marketplace. As well as giving our opinion on the looks of the fins - after all, aesthetics are becoming increasingly important in diving - we also comment on the comfort of the fins, how easy they are to get on and off, and how they perform using a variety of kicking styles, including a 'normal' fin kick, frogkick, back kick and helicopter turns.

THE TEST TEAM

MARK EVANS
- Sport Diver editor
- PADI Divemaster
- 30 years of diving experience

MATT MARTIN
- Dive officer, Blue Planet Aquarium
- PADI OWSI
- 10 years of diving experience

WILL HARRISON
- Sport Diver deputy editor
- PADI TEC 50
- 6 years of diving experience

BARRY HENDERSON
- Rope access specialist
- NAUI OW Diver
- 5 years of diving experience

BCDS ON TEST

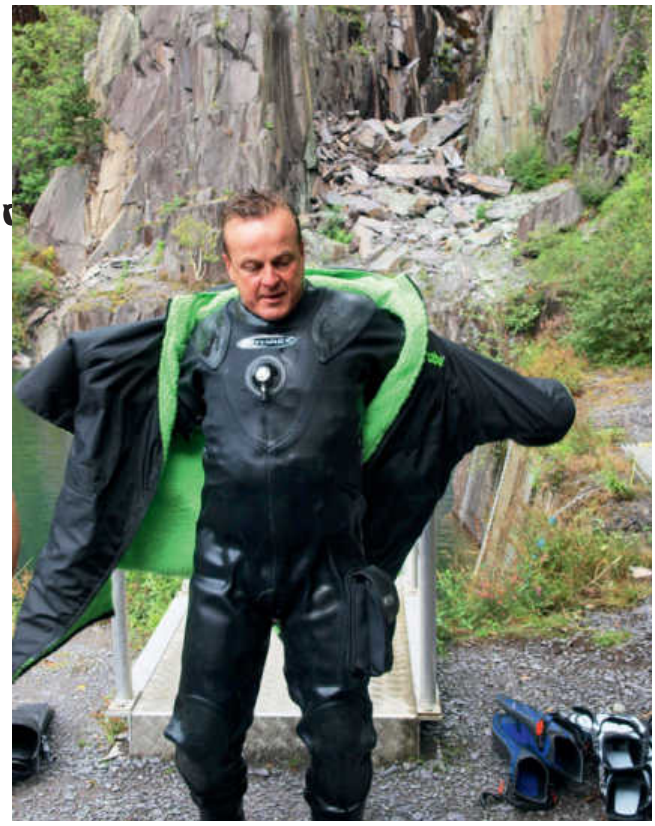
MODELS
- Apeks RK3
- Aquabionic Warp 1
- Atomic Aquatics BladeFin
- Dive Rite XT
- Force Fin Pro
- Hollis F1
- Scubapro Seawing Nova
- Typhoon Fusion

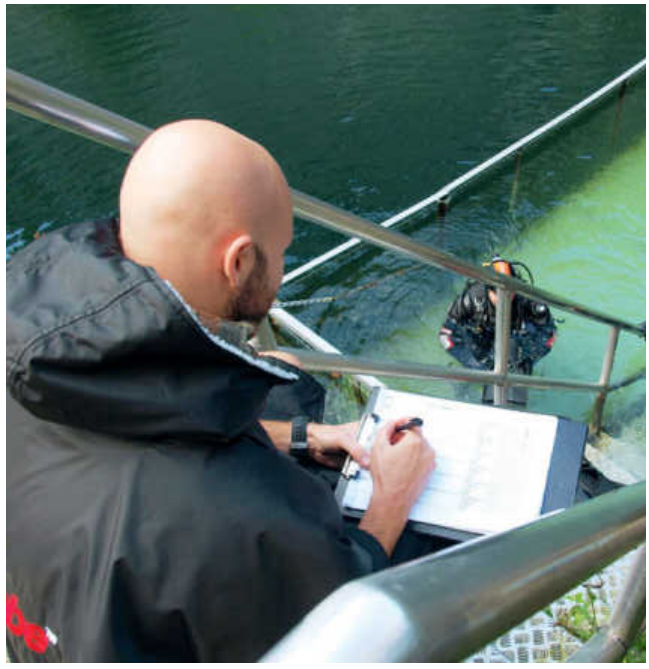
DATE TESTED 15/10/15

WATER TEMPERATURE
11-12 degrees C

Test dives conducted at Vivian Quarry in Llanberis, N. Wales

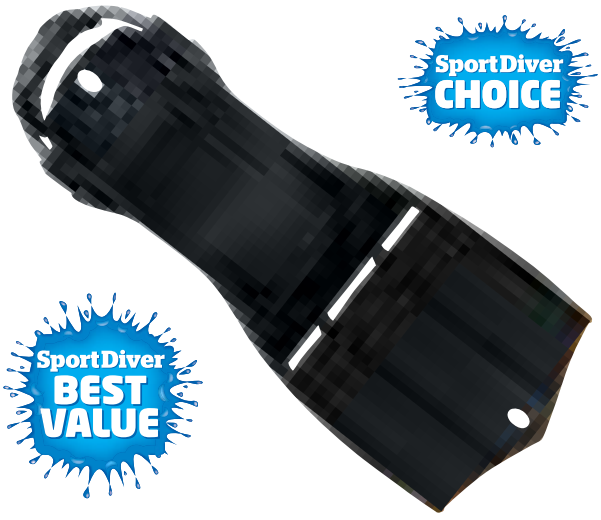
"This issue we are focusing on the top-of-the-line range to see what is available in today's marketplace"





FULL FOOT V OPEN HEEL: Full-foot fins tend to be much lighter than comparable open-heel fins, and because they are designed to fit bare feet, you don't have to wear spongy neoprene boots, which means a more-efficient transfer of energy. Heel-strap fins are ideal in colder waters, or where you have to traverse rough terrain to your dive site.

APEKS RK3 | £120 (€171)



MARK: I have to admit, I went into the water wearing these expecting them to be hard work on the old thigh muscles, as they boast that typical 'jet fin' look. How wrong could I be! These fins were a revelation, offering huge amounts of thrust in both normal and frog kicks, but because of the flexible nature of the material, it didn't put strain on my leg muscles. Very comfortable, and with a nice spring strap. Great pair of fins.

WILL: Amazing pair of fins. Great overall design, comfortable, with a neat spring strap. Very efficient and quick pair of fins, which excelled in all fin strokes, including back kick and frogkick.

MATT: Nice! Super light and responsive, yet offering plenty of power. You could wear them all day and not feel the strain. Impressive pair of fins, which are also good-looking in a techie sort of way.

BARRY: Dream pair of fins! I would buy them tomorrow. They look good, they are comfortable, they are easy to get on and off with the spring strap (though I would have liked a thumb loop in the rubber tab), and they produce an awful lot of thrust.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT	
PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
COMFORT	★★★★★
LOOKS	★★★★☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★

WE LIKE
Looks, performance, build quality, spring strap, price

WE DON'T LIKE
Nothing worth mentioning

AQUABIONIC WARP 1 | £149 (€212)

MARK: Very comfortable, and now with a spring strap (these were an old test pair) to aid getting them on and off. The innovative blade design works well with a normal kick, developing lots of thrust, but equally, you get a powerful frogkick as well. Quite manoeuvrable for such a long fin.

WILL: Great pair of fins, which I have actually been using since we did the last group test they were included in. Plenty of power with all fin kicks, and lightweight for such a long fin, so good for the travelling diver as well as the hardcore Brit.

MATT: Good all-round fin. I was a little dubious about the flexible blade, but in the water it worked exceptionally well. Decent thrust with all fin kicks, and a comfy foot pocket. Surprisingly manoeuvrable for quite a long pair of fins.

BARRY: I think these fins look cool, thanks to the innovative design of the blade, which isn't just for looks and really does make a huge difference to the performance. They are a long fin, but don't feel heavy on your legs when you are pushing through the water. Good delivery of power with all fin strokes.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT	
PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
COMFORT	★★★★☆
LOOKS	★★★★☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★☆

WE LIKE
Looks, comfort, performance

WE DON'T LIKE
Nothing worth mentioning

SPLIT V PADDLE: Split fins slice through the water with minimal resistance, and their flexible blades generate lift through a 'jet-propulsion' effect. Paddle fins tend to have stiffer blades, though some have 'hinges' or flexible sections to create more thrust for effort. If you are diving in areas of strong currents and surge, then paddle fins are the way forward.

ATOMIC BLADEFIN | £110 (€157)

MARK: Good-looking pair of paddle fins, which thanks to the flexible nature of the middle of the blade don't hammer your thigh muscles but do still deliver superior amounts of thrust. Well-thought-out clips which work well with gloves. Comfortable foot pocket, which helps transfer power well to the blade. Excellent frogkick, and quite manoeuvrable for such a long fin.

WILL: Not a bad fin at all. Nice, smooth rhythm with a normal fin stroke that develops plenty of thrust, and the clips are excellent, releasing completely with a simple pinch. Lightweight for the size, and work well with all fin strokes, including back kick and frogkick.

MATT: I like these a lot. Efficient and powerful with all fin strokes, including frogkick, back kick and normal flutter kick, yet manoeuvrable despite being long paddle fins. Nice clip design.

BARRY: I thought these looked a bit cheap compared with some of the others in this price bracket. However, no denying they work well, doing everything you require of them. I actually thought they were not producing that much thrust because of the lack of pull on my muscles, but then realised how much I was moving.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT	
PERFORMANCE	★★★★☆
COMFORT	★★★★☆
LOOKS	★★★★☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★

WE LIKE
Looks, performance, comfort, price, unique clip design

WE DON'T LIKE
Nothing worth mentioning

DIVE RITE XT | £144.95 (€207)

MARK: Expensive, but seem a fairly basic design paddle fin. Massively over-engineered strap arrangement involving chunky great bits of metal, but the spring part is effective. Hard work with a normal flutter kick. Their cave-diving heritage is obvious - the frogkick and back kick are very powerful.

WILL: A techie's dream fin. These are solid units on your feet, and they produce enormous amounts of thrust on the frogkick, and are also good for back kick. They are, however, pretty terrible on a normal flutter kick, needing lots of effort to get power out of them. The strap is over the top.

MATT: Not keen on these fins. They are big, long, heavy fins that just didn't seem to generate power on a normal kick stroke unless you really put some effort in. The frogkick was very good, as was the back kick. The way the spring strap attaches to the fin seems far too complex.

BARRY: These look okay, very purposeful, but they are seriously hard work on the normal flutter kick because there seems to be zero flex in the blade. The frogkick was sensational. The spring strap works well, but the connection is far too complicated.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT	
PERFORMANCE	★★★☆☆
COMFORT	★★★☆☆
LOOKS	★★★☆☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★☆☆

WE LIKE
Comfort, build quality

WE DON'T LIKE
Over-engineered strap attachment, hard work on flutter kick

WHERE THE ENVIRONMENT DEMANDS APEKS COMMANDS

apeks®
TECHNICALLY INSPIRED

TIME FOR SOMETHING **NEW**

Image © APEKS. All Rights Reserved

40% OFF

A NEW APEKS REGULATOR
WHEN YOU TRADE IN ANY OLD ONE*

VISIT **APEKSDIVING.COM/UK** OR YOUR LOCAL DIVE STORE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

www.apeksdiving.com/uk | #apeksdiving

*40% discount is given off the RRP price. Any brand of old regulator can be traded in.
This offer is open to customers in the UK and Ireland only. For full terms and conditions visit apeksdiving.com/uk

RETURNING HOME AFTER A DAY'S DIVING: Like all your equipment, fins will need looking after, so first give them a good rinse or soak in fresh water to rid them of residual salt and dirt. Make sure you get into the buckle assemble or spring strap, as you don't want sand and salt particles being left in there.

FORCE FIN PRO | £243 (€346)

MARK: I admit it, I am a dedicated fan of Force Fins. They do take some time to get used to, as they feel so different to any other fin on the market, but used correctly they produce serious amounts of power and speed. Very manoeuvrable thanks to their short blade, and you can even walk around in them - a bonus on a rocking hardboat. Bungle strap makes getting them on and off a doddle. Expensive.

WILL: Totally unique. I quite like them. They are very manoeuvrable, and offer punchy speed - surprisingly quick for such a small fin. Lightweight for travelling. Being so short is a massive plus when you are in a tight space, such as a wreck.

MATT: Unique! Totally different to anything else I have ever dived in. They feel loose on your feet, almost as if you haven't got any fins on, yet they generate a lot of power. Strange-looking and not for me, they'd take some getting used to.

BARRY: Weird, very much an acquired taste. Light on your feet, and very comfortable as your toes are not enclosed. The finning technique is very model specific, so you'd have to spend some time getting used to what works and what doesn't.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT	
PERFORMANCE	★★★★☆
COMFORT	★★★★☆
LOOKS	★★★☆☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★☆☆☆

WE LIKE
Performance, comfort, build quality

WE DON'T LIKE
Expensive, looks and feel split opinion

HOLLIS F1 | £115 (€164)

MARK: Heavyweight pair of old-school design fins. Plenty of power, but boy, do you feel it on your thigh muscles. Lots of thrust with the frogkick, and a decent back kick as well. Surprisingly manoeuvrable for such a chunky pair of fins. Neat, well-designed spring strap.

WILL: Big, heavy fins. Hard work with a regular kick, but an easy and efficient frogkick. 'Batman' styling, and a great spring strap. Comfortable foot pocket. Definitely a fin for those with strong leg muscles.

MATT: Heavyweight fins - you wouldn't want to be dragging these away on holiday! Powerful legs are needed to get the most out of these, but put the effort in and you get an awesome amount of thrust back out of them. They look very cool in a techie fashion. Comfortable, and with a neat spring strap.

BARRY: These fins looked great, and I really liked the design of the spring strap, which seamlessly fits on to the fin itself. With a normal fin stroke you need to put in a lot of effort to get thrust, but they are excellent with a frogkick.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT	
PERFORMANCE	★★★☆☆
COMFORT	★★★★☆
LOOKS	★★★★☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★☆☆

WE LIKE
Performance, comfort, build quality, price

WE DON'T LIKE
Hard work with a normal fin stroke

- IDEAL FOR TRAVELING DIVERS, WEIGHS ONLY 5 LBS (2.27 KG)
- 30 LBS (13.6 KG) OF LIFT CAPACITY
- COMFORTABLE BACKPAD
- CHEST AND HIP D-RINGS FOR ACCESSORIES OR SLING BOTTLE
- RUGGED 1000D NYLON OUTER COVER WITH 420D BLADDER
- 5 LBS DUMPABLE INTEGRATED WEIGHT SYSTEM

Hollis

WWW.HOLLISUK.COM | HERE2HELP@HOLLISUK.COM | 01404 891819

RETURNING HOME AFTER A DAY'S DIVING: Like all your equipment, fins will need looking after, so first give them a good rinse or soak in fresh water to rid them of residual salt and dirt. Make sure you get into the buckle assemble or spring strap, as you don't want sand and salt particles being left in there.

MARES X-STREAM | £110 (€156)

MARK: Unfortunately, these fins didn't arrive in time for our group test, but in the interests of showcasing what is on the market in this price bracket, we have included them here.
The Xtreme has an innovative flex section at the base of the blade - very much in the same vein as the Aquabionic Warp 1 - and so gives optimum thrust throughout the fin stroke, be that flutter or frogkick.
Made from thermoplastic rubber and technopolymers, it has a riddled foot pocket, so you don't get any suction on to your foot when you are removing it, and comes with the usual Mares locking, hinged clips.
Available in a range of sizes and colour schemes.

SCUBAPRO SEAWING NOVA | £135 (€192)

MARK: The Usain Bolt of the fin world - you can get some serious speed up with these fins, which are supremely efficient at transferring effort into power. The acceleration on a normal fin stroke is phenomenal. Decent back kick and a tolerable frogkick. Lightweight, and a neat bungie strap. Wide range of colour schemes, including this purple.

WILL: The Seawing Novas are quite a long fin, but thanks to their design, they feel lightweight and quite manoeuvrable. Comfortable foot pocket, great bungie heel strap, and an excellent normal fin stroke in terms of effort for thrust.

MATT: Very good pair of fins. Powerful with a normal flutter kick, and an amazing pace for straight line speed. The heel strap is made from bungie cord and easy to get on and off. A pleasure to use, though the frogkick takes some getting used to.

BARRY: These fins felt very long, yet in the water were quite manoeuvrable. You can rip along with a normal fin stroke at quite a pace without that much effort. I couldn't get to grips with a frogkick in them, though. Fantastic bungie heel strap arrangement.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT	
PERFORMANCE	★★★★☆
COMFORT	★★★★☆
LOOKS	★★★★☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★☆

WE LIKE
Performance, comfort, build quality, bungie strap

WE DON'T LIKE
Nothing worth mentioning

shop online at:
life.fourthelement.com
fourth element
EQUIPMENT FOR ADVENTURE

RETURNING HOME AFTER A DAY'S DIVING: Once completely dry, store out of the sun. Heat and light can cause premature cracking and discolouration, and can also weaken the bonds between composite materials. Always store fins flat, otherwise you could end up with a permanent bend or crease in the blade, which will hinder in-water performance.

TYPHOON FUSION | £135 (€192)

MARK: Apart from the thumb loop on the spring strap, these are virtually identical to the Beaver Exocets reviewed in last month's issue. They have a comfortable foot pocket, smooth finning action with plenty of thrust, and a reasonable degree of manoeuvrability given the length of them. Good pair of paddle fins.

WILL: Nice fins overall, giving reasonable propulsion with all the main fin kicks. Comfortable, and I was impressed by the spring strap as well. Manoeuvrability was a little compromised by their length.

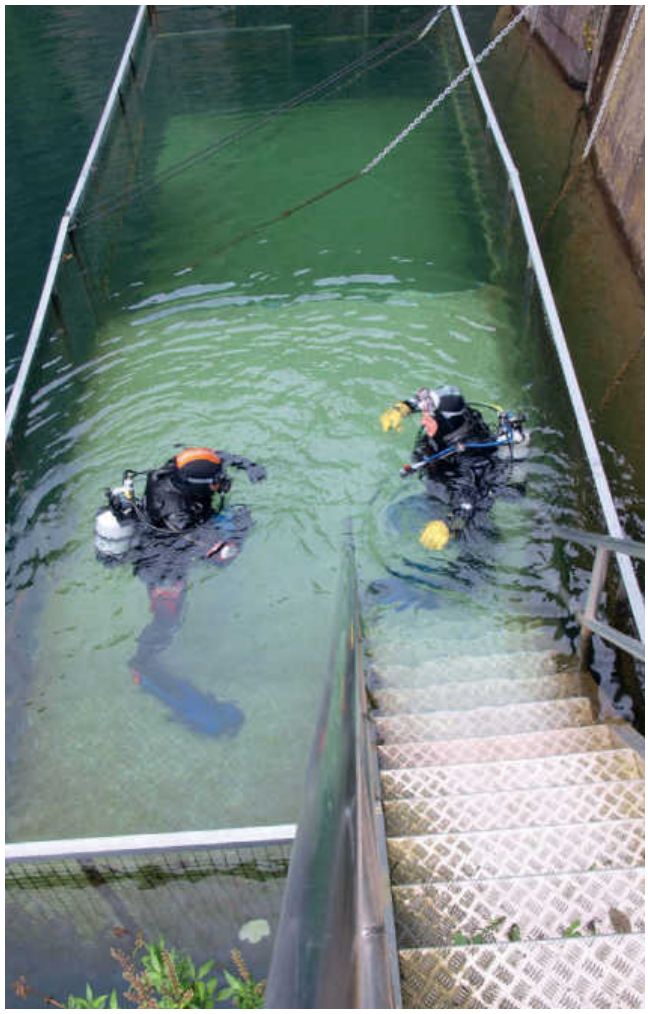
MATT: Good return for effort in all three finning styles. Super-easy to get on and off thanks to the superior spring strap.

BARRY: Good fin. Great spring strap makes them easy to get on and off, and a very comfy foot pocket. No real resistance when finning, but plenty of power as and when you require it. Quite manoeuvrable given the length of the fins.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT	
PERFORMANCE	★★★★☆
COMFORT	★★★★☆
LOOKS	★★★☆☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★☆☆

WE LIKE
Comfort, looks, performance, spring straps

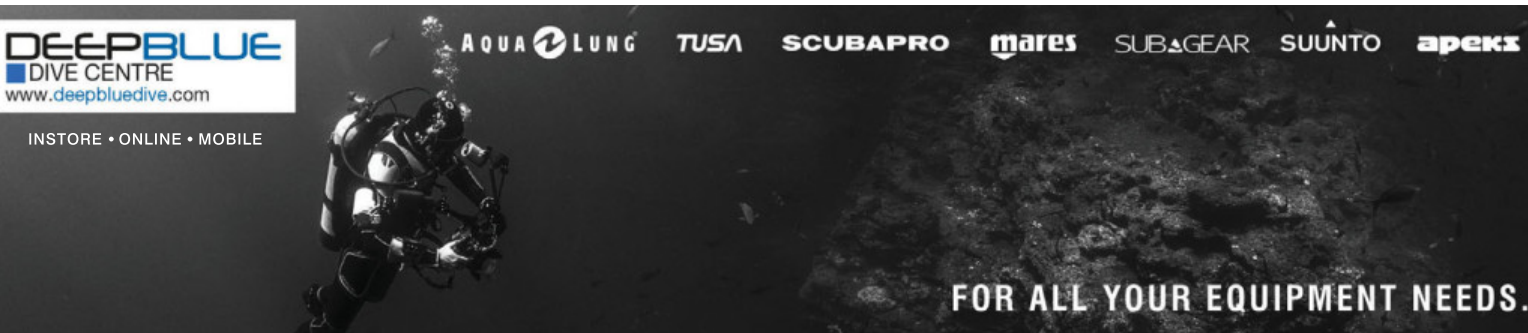
WE DON'T LIKE
Nothing worth mentioning

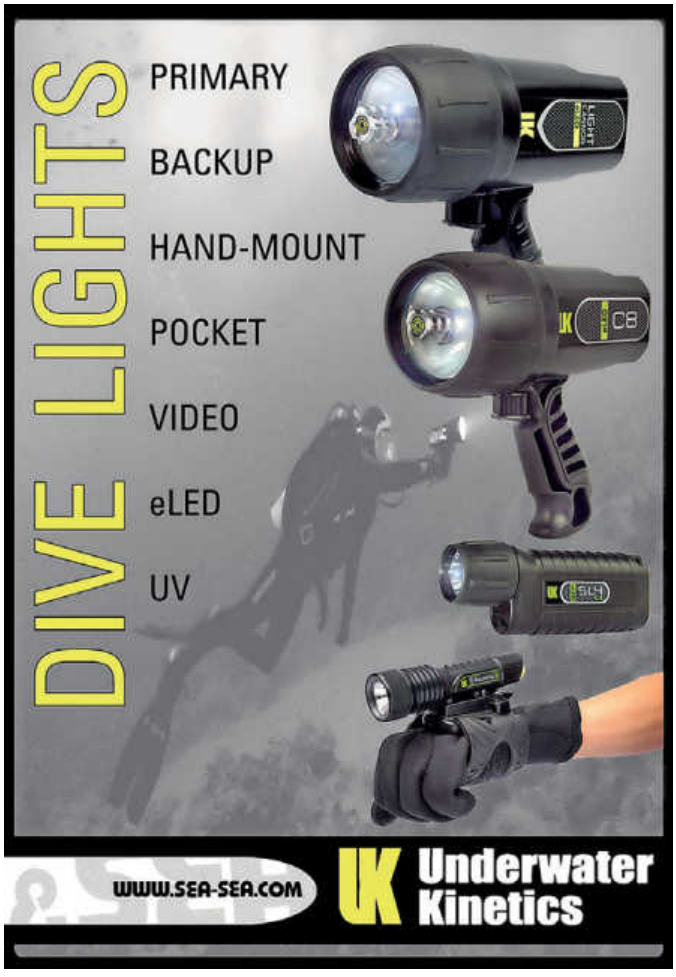


CONCLUSION. There are some excellent fins in the Over £100 price bracket, but as with the mid-price bracket, it was interesting to note the lack of split fins, in this case not one in the entire test. Has this technology had its day? Only time will tell, but personally, I was pleased to see the tried-and-tested paddles making a welcome return.

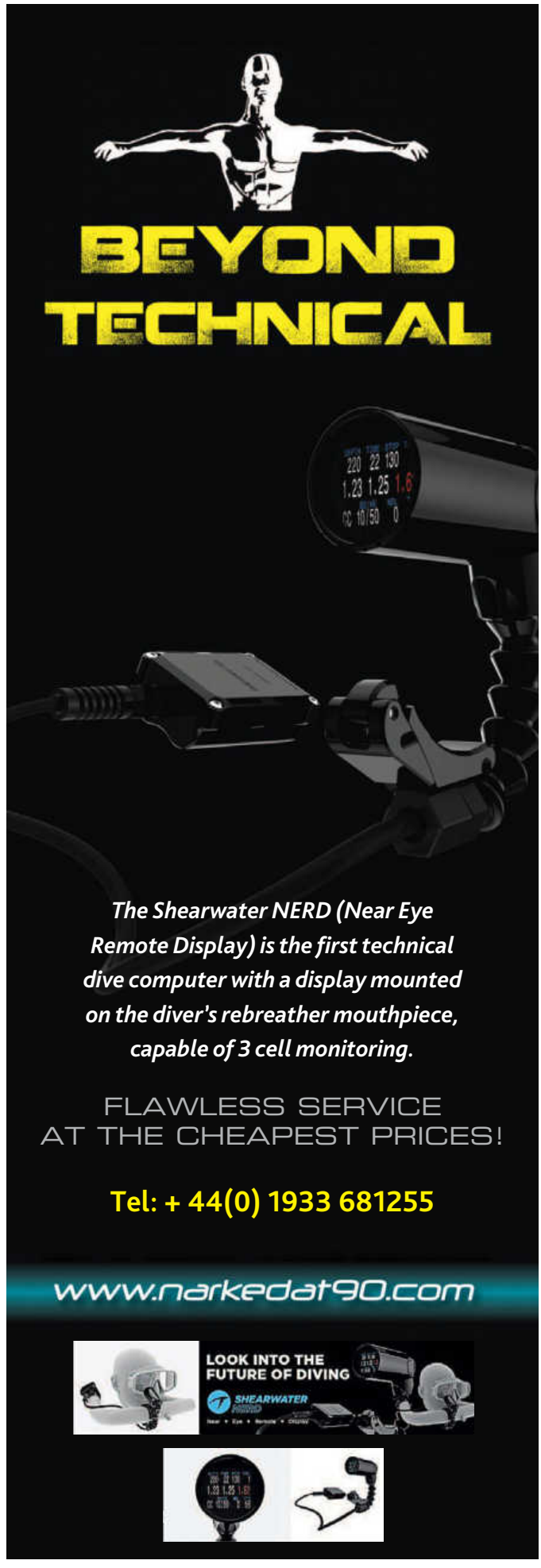
The Best Value was a battle between the Apeks RK3, Atomic Aquatics BladeFin and the Hollis F1s. There was only £10 between them in terms of cost. The BladeFins and the F1s put up a valiant battle, but the sheer performance and value for money of the RK3s landed them with the title.

The Choice award was between the Apeks RK3, Aquabionic Warp 1 and the Scubapro Seawing Nova. All three delivered great performances and each had its merits, but in the end the compact nature, power and comfort of the RK3s saw them take the crown and be a double winner.




DIVE LIGHTS
PRIMARY
BACKUP
HAND-MOUNT
POCKET
VIDEO
eLED
UV
WWW.SEA-SEA.COM
UK Underwater Kinetics

THE NEXT GENERATION
YS-D2
Underwater Strobe
READY & TTL AUDIBLE CONFIRMATION
DUAL POWERED MODELLING LIGHT
ILLUMINATED REAR CONTROLS
FASTER RECYCLING TIME
WIDER EV RANGE AND MORE...
WWW.SEA-SEA.COM
SEA&SEA
THE UNDERWATER IMAGING COMPANY


BEYOND
TECHNICAL
The Shearwater NERD (Near Eye Remote Display) is the first technical dive computer with a display mounted on the diver's rebreather mouthpiece, capable of 3 cell monitoring.
FLAWLESS SERVICE
AT THE CHEAPEST PRICES!
Tel: + 44(0) 1933 681255
www.narkedat90.com
LOOK INTO THE FUTURE OF DIVING
SHEARWATER

SCUBALAB LONG TERM

BARE X-MISSION

The latest Bare drysuit to arrive in Long Term Test looks pretty swish in its red-and-black colour scheme, and definitely wins the title for 'cool name' - X-Mission, sounds very Special Forces!
The X-Mission comes with two pockets, suspenders, valves, whip, and a choice of seals and boots for £1,330. It is made from nylon ripstop trilaminate, which is durable but also lightweight - the suit only weights 3.4kg including seals and boots.
We have also been supplied with the SB Base Layer pant and top combo (SRP: £77 each) and the SB Mid Layer fullsuit (SRP: £213), which are all made of a four-way-stretch, breathable, compression-resistant, quick-drying material with anti-microbial features.

Mark Evans,
www.baresports.com

INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	NOVEMBER 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£1,330
NUMBER OF DIVES	0
TIME IN WATER	0 HRS 0 MINS

SCUBAPRO MANTIS M1

The Mantis M1 has proved it is a more-than-capable computer, and one of the things which constantly gets the thumbs up from me are the magnetic buttons. You get a nice, positive 'push' action, and they are a decent size, so you can even operate them with thick neoprene gloves on.

Mark Evans,
www.scubapro.co.uk

INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	MAY 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£369
NUMBER OF DIVES	43
TIME IN WATER	41 HRS 55 MINS

OCEANIC VEO 1

The great thing about the Oceanic Veo 1 is the fact that it is so simple and easy to use, and this is all down to the single button which allows you to navigate around the menu. By either using a quick or a long press, you can quickly and easily access the dive log, dive planner, nitrox, deep stops, PPO2 level, and other personal settings. You don't even have to break out the instruction book, spend a few minutes having a trial run and you will soon get the hang of scrolling through the various settings. And at £135, it represents awesome value for money.

Mark Evans
www.oceanicuk.com

INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	AUGUST 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£135
NUMBER OF DIVES	12
TIME IN WATER	11 HRS 10 MINS

AQUALUNG PRO

The Aqualung Pro performs much the same as its more-expensive siblings, but to be honest, I didn't expect anything less. As we have previously stated, the build quality of the Pro is right up there with other higher-level Aqualung BCDs, and this is even down to the nitty-gritty, such as the chunky toggles on the pull dumps and the pre-bent stainless-steel D-rings.

Mark Evans
www.aqualung.com

INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	JULY 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£245
NUMBER OF DIVES	3
TIME IN WATER	2 HRS 30 MINS

GoPro
Be a HERO.

CAMERAS & ACCESSORIES

INSTORE • ONLINE • MOBILE

www.DEEPBLUEDIVE.com

ZEAGLE EXPRESS TECH

The Zeagle Express Tech is very stripped-back and lightweight, but you can add various accessories if you wish, including a shoulder pad kit (SRP: £30), zip touch weight system (SRP: £80), and rip cord weight system (SRP: £88).

One thing it has retained that is common on all Zeagle jackets is the ability to quickly remove the power inflator, which then allows you to attach a garden hose to the inflator hose and thoroughly rinse the interior of the BCD - a regular piece of kit maintenance which is something people do not often carry out. By being able to whip off the power inflator and gain easy access to the end of the inflator hose, it might make users actually complete this simple task.

INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	SEPTEMBER 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£236
NUMBER OF DIVES	5
TIME IN WATER	4 HRS 15 MINS

Mark Evans
www.zeagle.com

ROBIN HOOD WATERSPORTS X-FLEX TECH

The X-Flex Tech got its first outing up at the Farne Islands. These two dives represented the first my wife has done in the sea in a drysuit in many years, and were also her first UK boat dives. The fact that she was happy to stay underwater for up to and over an hour at a time is testament to how warm and comfy she felt in the suit.

INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	OCTOBER 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	from £829
NUMBER OF DIVES	2
TIME IN WATER	2 HRS 15 MINS

Mark Evans,
www.roho.co.uk

FINN SUB 3000 SHORT

A welcome return of the Finn Sub 3000 Short. The team at Finn Sub managed to get to the bottom of what was causing the issues - moisture in the head was the problem. The head has now been cleared of condensation and the unit resealed, and it is back to giving the two-hour burn times that I was enjoying previously. Hats off to the guys, they dealt with the issue promptly, and if you ever have any problems with something, this is what you want to experience.

INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	APRIL 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£549
NUMBER OF DIVES	27
TIME IN WATER	25 HRS 45 MINS

Mark Evans, www.finnsub.com

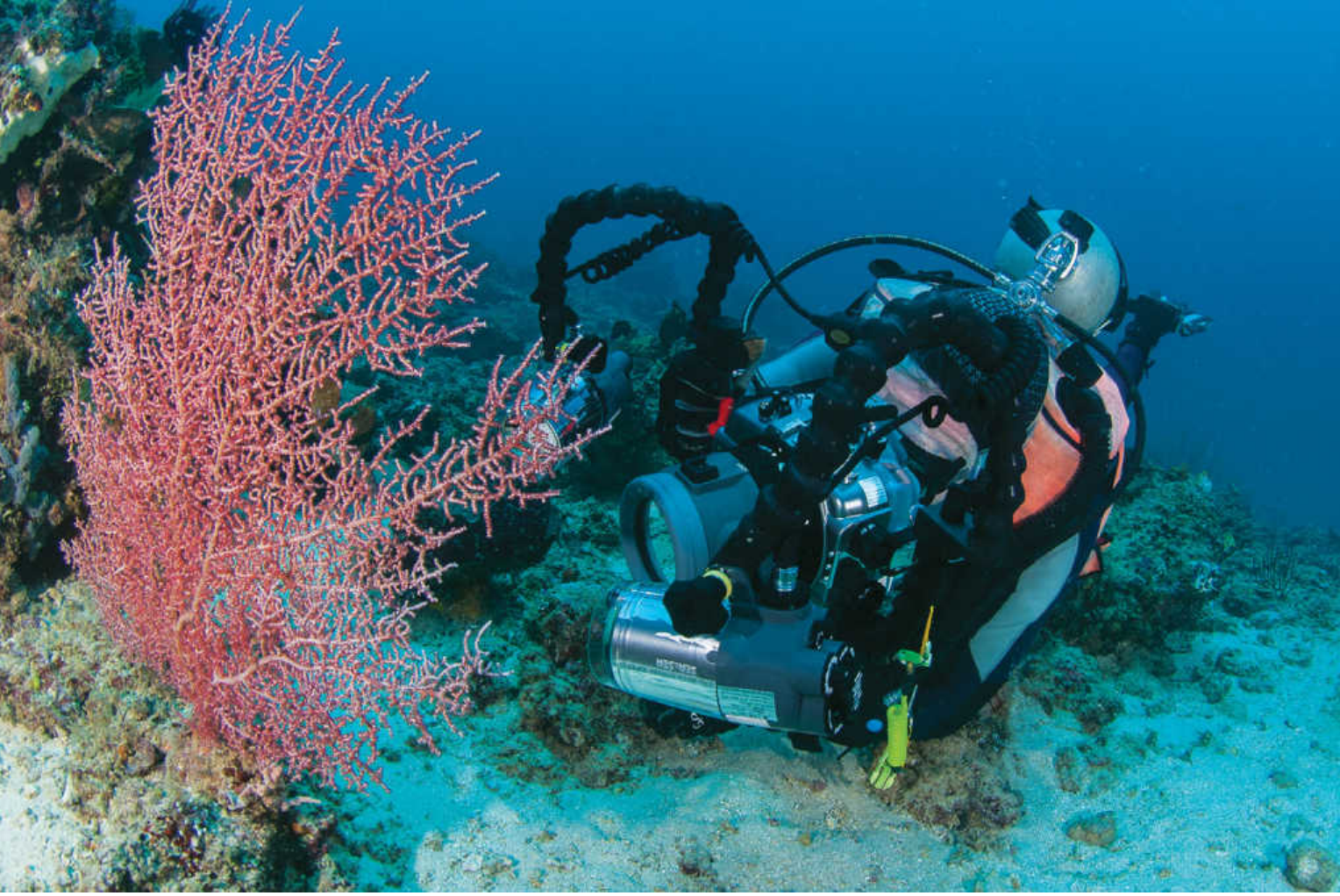
APEKS LIFELINE 30-METRE SPOOL

END OF TERM

The Apeks Lifeline spool has been a welcome companion in my drysuit pocket or thigh-mounted accessory pocket that I wear with a wetsuit. It is well-made, looks the business and has that touchy-feely quality you only get from a chunk of metal. It's not cheap, but you get what you pay for.

INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	MAY 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£60
NUMBER OF DIVES	35
TIME IN WATER	33 HRS 50 MINS

Mark Evans
www.apeks.co.uk



The two most-common gorgonian homes of pygmy seahorses . Bargibant's are found on the purple Muricella (top) and Denise's pygmies on the smooth pink Annella (bottom)

A rosy spindle cowrie feeding

Bargibant's pygmy seahorse among open polyps

GET MORE FROM YOUR UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

CRITTER HUNTING
GORGONIANS

Scouring coral reefs for more hidden gems, **DR RICHARD SMITH** hunts for his favourite subject, the pygmy seahorse, and other critters on gorgonian corals.

Photographs by **DR RICHARD SMITH / WWW.OCEANREALMIMAGES.COM**

Gorgonians, also known as seafans, are large flat corals that grow in an elaborate branching structure, reminiscent of a fan. They can live for up to 100 years and grow exceedingly slowly, despite sometimes reaching a couple of metres in diameter. They are very delicate, but noxious to most reef fishes, so are avoided by the majority of coral-eating species. The coral's fan-like structure helps them to filter greater volumes of passing plankton-rich water, which in turn also allows the creatures that live on their surface access to these rich food resources too. While some animals only occasionally visit gorgonians to hide or feed on trapped plankton, others exhibit extreme camouflage and spend their whole lives attached to their branches. Gorgonian's longevity and unpalatably make them an ideal home for an array of interesting critters, but in my eyes, a couple of miniature marine steeds certainly steal the show.

COMMON GORGONIAN-ASSOCIATED ANIMALS

Longnose Hawkfish | Length - 13 cm | These colourful and photogenic fish only tend to inhabit larger gorgonians. They can be quite shy and move quickly, so it takes some patience to get a clear shot among the branches of a gorgonian. Approach slowly and give them time to acclimatise to your presence and they should calm down and allow a few shots.

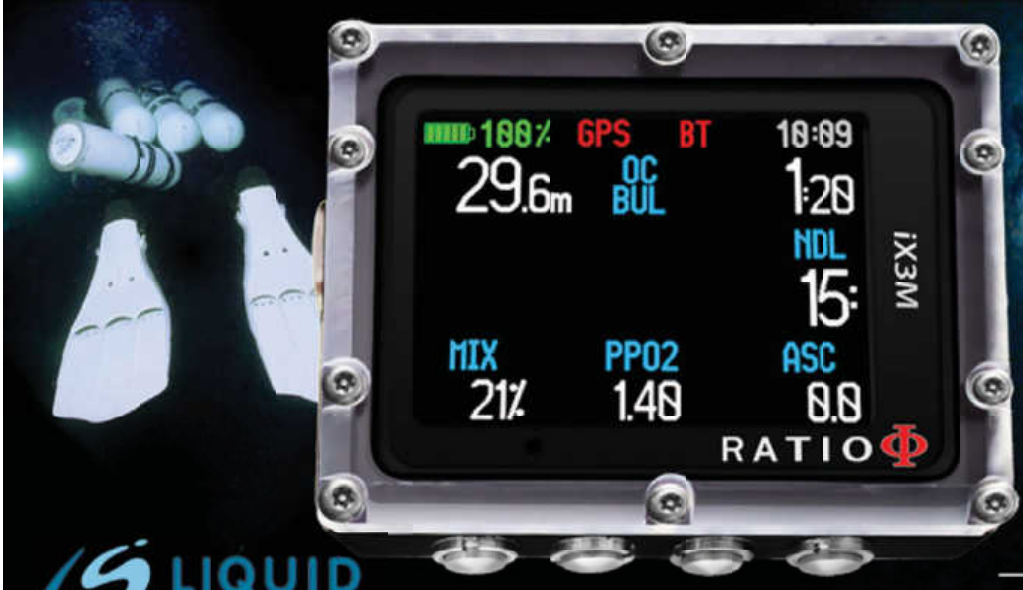
Gobies | Length - 3 cm | Look for these small, well-camouflaged fishes on the thicker branches of the gorgonian. They will usually stay quite still if you don't approach them too quickly. As with many of these creatures, they are more interesting photographically if you are able to shoot upwards and get a blue background, or with a shallow depth of field to blur any cluttered backgrounds.

Conical Spider Crab | Length - 1.5 cm | These small spider crabs are closely related to the Xeno crabs found on wire corals. They are usually found quite well hidden among multiply overlapping branches. They vary in colour, depending on the hue of the gorgonian they find themselves upon.

Spider Squat Lobster | Size - 7 cm | Although they superficially resemble the Caribbean arrow crabs, these long-legged crustaceans are in fact a kind of squat lobster. Their legs can be several

New Ratio iX3M

The best Dive Computer you have ever had.



LIQUID SPORTS

RATIO COMPUTERS

The Luxury Scuba Diving Liveaboard of the Bahamas

Let Aqua Cat be your floating resort while on your adventure vacation.

Imagine sinking your toes into sugar sand, snorkeling or diving among the sharks and stingrays, or hiking the trails of pirates and bootleggers of years gone by.

Sit back, relax and choose from an incredible variety of activities including scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking, fishing, sunbathing, and island exploring in the remote islands of the Exumas, the most secluded and pristine area in all the Bahamas.

Log a large variety of dives; shark feeding dives, blue holes, high speed drift dives, walls and reefs at all depths.

We know you like your creature comforts like private fully en-suite cabins, gourmet meals, and all the amenities. We also know you want to pair this all with an adventure vacation that you'll be talking about for ages!

AQUA CAT CRUISES

www.aquacatcruises.com • 001.954.734.7115

AquaCat – one of the AllStar Liveaboards fleet. AllStar LIVEABOARDS

Coral grouper are often loosely associated with gorgonians

"Finding pygmy seahorses is half the battle, but most guides should have a good idea of where to look"

centimetres long, which allow these animals to move around the gorgonian easily. They are usually found on gorgonians inhabiting rich waters, in a location that is well protected.

Cowries | Length - 4 cm | There are several very beautiful cowries that live and feed on gorgonians. Small allied and egg cowries often share gorgonians with Denise's pygmy seahorses, while rosy spindle cowries tend to feed on gorgonians with thicker branches. Some cowrie shells can be quite obvious from a distance, but the lance cowrie is a master of disguise. Its deep red mantle drapes over its shell and is covered in tufts that mimic the open polyps of the gorgonian. It takes a keen eye to spot these molluscs on their host.

PYGMY SEAHORSES

There are two species of pygmy seahorses that make gorgonian corals their home. They spend their entire adult lives associated with a single coral, arriving after a few weeks spent floating around in the open ocean immediately after being born. They use chemical cues released into the water by the gorgonian to locate their new home. Both pygmies are exceptionally photogenic and hard to find, offering the ultimate test in critter hunting and photography. However, they're delicate and susceptible to damage and stress so, as always, great care should be taken when photographing them.

Bargibant's Pygmy Seahorse | Length - 2.7 cm | Slightly larger and stockier looking than Denise's, Bargibant's pygmy seahorses are found exclusively on Muricella species of gorgonians. To match this gorgonian's lumpy texture, the seahorse always has a correspondingly lumpy skin surface. The colour variants of Muricella gorgonians are limited, so Bargibant's tend only to be found in hues of pinks and purples, or in a yellow/orange form.

Denise's Pygmy Seahorse | Length - 2.4 cm | Uniquely slender and elongate among gorgonian-living pygmy seahorses, Denise's pygmy can be found living on any one of ten different gorgonian species. As a result they are extremely variable in colour and surface texture. Some are totally smooth, while others are as lumpy as Bargibant's. Their colour phases vary wildly, from a red and white form found only commonly in southern Raja Ampat, Indonesia to pure white, red, golden and even spotty ones.

BIOGRAPHY

Richard Smith, a British underwater photographer and writer, aspires to promote an appreciation for the ocean's inhabitants and raise awareness of marine conservation issues through his images. A marine biologist by training, Richard's pioneering research on the biology and conservation of pygmy seahorses, led to the first PhD on these enigmatic fish. Over the past decade, Richard's photographs and marine life focused features have appeared in a wide variety of publications around the world. Richard leads marine life expeditions where the aim is for participants to get more from their diving and photography by learning about the marine environment: ***www.OceanRealmImages.com***

Where possible, a blue background is more aesthetically pleasing

Where to look

Pygmies are almost exclusively found on the coral reefs of the Coral Triangle, from Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and less commonly in a few other areas of the Pacific. However, on a recent trip to a small island off Tokyo, I was able to extend their known geographic range some 800 miles northwards. Seahorse sightings worldwide can now be logged as a non-professional citizen scientist through www.iSeahorse.org to help collect data that is invaluable to researchers.

Finding pygmy seahorses is half the battle, but most guides should have a good idea of where to look. Knowing which gorgonians to look on is also vital, and will stop you giving up through frustration. Next time you see a pygmy seahorse, make a mental note of the gorgonian its on, and this will help you to find another in future. Once you've narrowed it down to the species of gorgonian, look for pygmies in protected areas of the gorgonian where it folds over. They like to feel secure. Also, looking for their stripy tails can help as they stand out slightly.

"They spend their entire adult lives associated with a single coral, arriving after a few weeks spent floating around in the open ocean immediately after being born"

A pair of Bargibant's pygmy seahorses

Longnose hawkfish

Denise's pygmy seahorse and a goby

How to photograph pygmies

If you thought finding a pygmy seahorse was tricky, wait until you try to photograph them. I believe that half the difficulty lies in the unfamiliar conditions that we find ourselves in when attempting to take a shot. The seahorses are so tiny, requiring us to get very close in order to see and photograph them. Additionally, the gorgonian holds them off the reef meaning that we often need to hover to shoot them. As a result it's easy to accidentally touch and damage the gorgonian or surrounding marine life and getting a sharp image not easy at all.

For me, the priority when taking any shot is always to ensure the animal and its habitat are not damaged in any way. I have heard about and seen some terrible practices when photographing pygmies. When shooting pygmies I firstly make sure my bubbles won't hit the fan when I exhale, as there might be others I haven't spotted, I also make sure my strobes are positioned in a compact location to my housing so they don't hit the delicate fan. Obviously, the gorgonian or pygmy seahorse should never be intentionally touched or manipulated. These tiny fish and their home are easily physically damaged, and stress can cause illness and prevent reproduction.

Once I'm set up I also limit the number of photos. Pygmies have an intense dislike for bright lights, often preferring gorgonians that are slightly shaded or in deeper water. If you've ever posed for a flash-lit picture in a dimly lit room you'll understand why I limit the number of shots to five. Given that pygmies live their whole lives on one gorgonian, there is also sure to be a cumulative impact from diver after diver visiting them. These impacts accumulate on the health of the seahorse and that of their gorgonian home, which can eventually become so degraded it become uninhabitable by the fish.

The shots we look for in a pygmy probably show some eye contact, the animal's front or side profile. These will also be nicely set off by the gorgonian having open polyps. All of these are only attainable if the pygmy is happy and the gorgonian isn't touched. Where possible I like to try and shoot upwards with low strobe output, with a relatively large aperture to get a lovely blue background. More often than not this isn't possible, and I don't even attempt to take a shot when the pygmy is hiding behind fronds and inaccessible. As always with photography, it's about making the most of the situation at hand and not pushing things for the sake of the shot and the animal's health. ■

Incredible ADVENTURES

Join expert Dr Richard Smith on two exclusive trips to Indonesia and the Philippines in search of new marine life. To learn more and discover our full range of trips, contact our Dive team.

NEW brochure out now

© Dr Richard Smith

ABTOT
ASSOCIATION OF BONDED TRAVEL ORGANISERS TRUST

ATOL PROTECTED

DIVE WORLDWIDE
TRAVEL | EXPERIENCE | CONSERVE

diveworldwide.com
01962 302050 sales@diveworldwide.com

KELDAN

Advanced Lighting Technology

NEW

KELDAN Video 4X
6000 lumen
5000 kelvin
5 power settings
Rated to 200 meters
110° beam in water

Available from:
Cameras Underwater
Ocean Leisure Cameras
Underwater Visions

For Professionals Who Know The Difference

www.keldanlights.com

THRESHER SHARK DIVERS

Malapascua, Philippines

You want big fish? We got big fish!
You want macro? We got macro!
You want wrecks? We got wrecks!
You want it all? We got it all!

Malapascua your one stop dive spot!

TSD is a PADI CDC offering a huge range of courses!

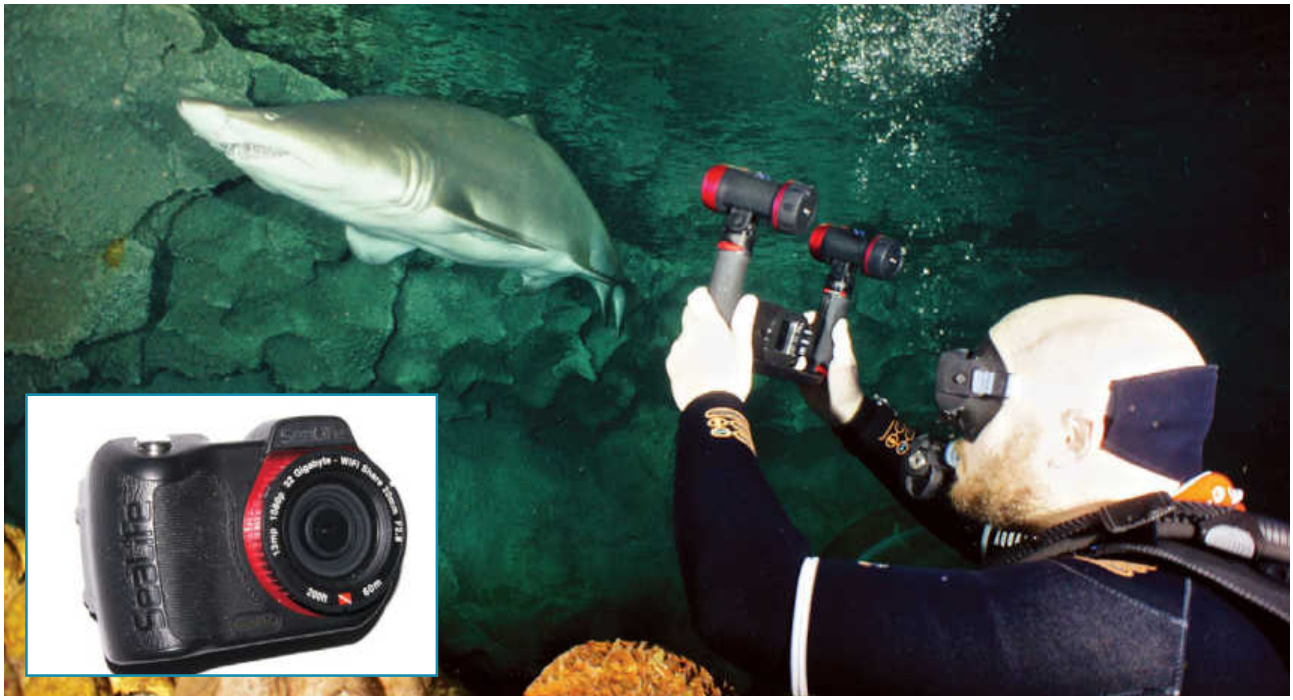
- From Beginner up to Trimix Instructor
- 25+ speciality courses including deep, wreck, nitrox & photography
- Tec Deep & Trimix
- Sidemount & Cave Diving
- Our unique Thresher Shark Specialty Course
- Custom built internship programs for Divemaster, IDC, MSDT & Staff Instructor

PADI CDC Career Development Center

www.thresherdivers.com

Come and chat with us at all major 2015 dive shows, Philippines booth!

SEALIFE MICRO HD+ | £379 (€540)



Mark Evans: One of the problems with taking a camera underwater is that you are always worried about the waterproof housing leaking, but that concern is a thing of the past with the SeaLife Micro HD+. Why? Because this nifty little camera is completely sealed, so there is no way it can flood.

The Micro HD+ is certainly a dinky unit, but its compact nature belies its abilities. It features a 32GB internal memory for storing the 13 megapixel photographs and 1080p full HD videos (that's 8,000 plus still images and six hours plus of video!), and the li-ion battery provides over three hours of continuous operation from one charge.

Using the Micro HD+ underwater is simplicity in itself. There are only three 'piano key' controls on the back, which are chunky enough you can use them when wearing thick neoprene gloves. Via these controls and the shutter button, you can use Easy Set-up, which basically is either underwater or land, and then whether you are using the camera along with an external light, or with dual lights. In UW mode, you then select dive or snorkel, and you are ready to go. Simple and straightforward, and great for beginners who can then concentrate on their composition, etc.

If you want to get more complex, using the same controls, you can access picture mode and video mode. In picture mode, you can, among other things, change the photograph size and quality, set the self timer - useful for 'selfies' with the accessory Aqua Pod Mini (£45) - and adjust the white balance, which can either be auto or one of four specific settings - Underwater Deep, Underwater Shallow, Daylight or Cloudy. In video mode, you can alter the video resolution, again change the white balance to one of the five settings (as per the picture mode), and adjust the sharpness and quality.

When it comes to downloading your images and video, you can either connect your camera up to your PC via USB, or you can utilise the Micro HD+'s wireless capability to download and share your shots through the free app Action Cam HD. This is particu-

WESTFIELD

SUB AQUA & MARINE INSURANCE SERVICES LTD

Travel Insurance

NOT all Travel Insurance is developed with the Diver and Diving in mind!

Read the exclusions... you'll be surprised! ...we were!

Our policy has been arranged for you and your sport!

INSURING SPORT DIVERS since 1972

RIB Insurance

Affordable Premiums for all boat owners

- *Liability Cover*
- *Accidental damage*
- *Theft cover* • *Low excess*
- *Member to member liability*
  (i.e. liability to divers in the water)

Insurance also available for;
Diving Equipment, Compressor and Personal Accident.

For an instant quote phone *'your insurance buddy'*
on 01483 237827 or visit www.divinginsuranceuk.com

Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

SEALIFE MICRO HD+ | £379 (€540)

larly handy if you are still out on the dive boat and want to fire up a particularly cool photograph onto social media - all you need is your iOS or Android device and away you go. You don't even need to dry your camera!

When it came to testing the Micro HD+, I teamed it up with a tray and dual Sea Dragon 2500 lights (£439 each), which have three power settings and are seriously bright little units for the size. They have a 120-degree beam, ensuring maximum lighting coverage, and give a burn time of 60 minutes at full power. Having these made a huge difference to the quality of the images in terms of lighting and colour, as can be seen from the photograph of Matt to the right, which is well lit throughout the image. The 140-degree wide-angle lens also allows you to get nice and close to your subject, cutting out much of the water column.

Even with the dual lighting system attached to the camera, it was still a very compact unit, as you can see on the previous page where Matt was videoing the ragged tooth shark and the moray eel. You wouldn't take up much of your precious baggage allowance with this trusty little set-up.

I also tried out the 10x close-up lens (£36), which can be quickly and easily attached and detached underwater, and this really made a difference for macro work, giving the Micro HD+ a focusing range of 15cm to 61cm, which helped on close-up fish portraits as well as the tiny stuff.

The Micro HD+ might not be for the accomplished photographers out there, but for beginners and intermediates, it is a cracking little unit. Teamed up with the Sea Dragon lights and close-up lens, it is capable of capturing some eye-catching images and video.

www.sealife.com

NB: Thanks to Matt Martin and the team at Blue Planet Aquarium for letting me loose in their main exhibit.

MANADO - BALI - PAPUA - LOMBOK - CEBU

FIVE
DESTINATIONS.
FIVE
REGIONS.
FIVE
CULTURES.

ONE OCEAN

DIVING IS
CULTURE WITH

LOTUS HOTELS
www.lotus-hotels.com

Gangga
Divers

LOTUS-HOTELS.COM

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME IS CALLING

There will also be a photography competition held onboard, to be judged on the final day, with fantastic prizes for the winners in the different categories, which will include the usual Wide-Angle, Macro, Compact, DSLR, etc, as well as Most Improved to recognise those who perhaps only took up an underwater camera in anger for the first time on the trip

Email: readertrip@sportdiver.co.uk www.sportdiver.co.uk/bahamas

HOW THAT SHOT WAS TAKEN: CONSIDERATION MODE

This month Martin looks at how underwater photographers should approach a new subject before touching the shutter button

We all know that some photo dives are much better than others. This month's story was the very last dive of our Raja Ampat photo workshop in December 2014. It was a convenient site, quite shallow, about 12m deep and on a direct route, back into the port of Sorong, Raja Ampat. I'd been using my wide-angle system for most of the ten-day trip so I decided to break out my trusty Nikon 60mm macro lens system for a change. Now, whether it was me and I was 'dived out' I'm not sure, but for at least 35 minutes I struggled to find anything to photograph at all. Nothing gave me motivation or inspiration. It was all so quiet and to be honest, quite barren.

Now, I'm not sure why it caught my eye but I looked down and noticed a very pale, bland, balled up anemone about 4m below me. I sank down to have look, when one, two and then three clownfish appeared out of the tentacles to greet me.

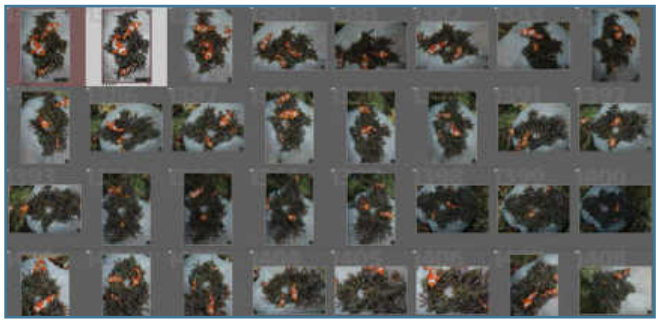
Marvellous! At last, I had something to shoot, which could make a decent image. I backed off and went into 'consideration mode'.

When I'm about to have a session on something I always go into consideration mode. It goes something like this:

- How good could this opportunity be?
- How many frames shall I shoot?
- What kind of shot am I after?
- How long am I prepared to wait to achieve that shot?

I answered all these questions in my head and it went something like this.

- This could make a very strong image!
- I'll take as many frames as I need to get what I'm after!
- The anemone is balled up, three clowns dancing around the tentacles. I want them all sharp in a vertical composition, balanced in the frame.
- There's nothing else down here to shoot, I'll stay until my time is up.



And that's what I did! I took a total of 163 frames of the fish dancing around the anemone. Why? It made a strong image with both good colour and contrast. In my opinion there was nothing else at all worth photographing. My initial approach to this idea was to build up my hit or miss rate. To achieve adequate focus on three pairs of eyes is a challenge to say the least. I've developed a technique which I've labelled 'Paralleling the Subject'. I do this by holding the palm of my left hand parallel to the orientation of the anemone. I then place my housing on this angle and shoot. In this way I'm hoping to achieve sharp focus throughout the frame. On a decent dive site I would shoot no more than thirty frames to achieve one that works, but with little else to shoot, I was happy to spend the rest of my air time on the clowns. ■

EQUIPMENT AND SETTINGS

I used a Nikon D7000 in a Nauticam housing with dual Inon 220 flash guns positioned each side of my housing, level with my viewfinder on the back of my housing. I took 163 frames of this opportunity. My settings were f16 at 320th sec shutter speed. My ISO was 200.

NEED GIFT IDEAS?

Martin runs one-day underwater photo tuition courses in Bournemouth, Dorset, UK, designed for one two or three persons. He promises to improve your photo skills by at least five years.

Go to **www.edgeunderwaterphotography.com** for details or email Martin direct on martin@edgeunderwaterphotography.com

ABOUT MARTIN

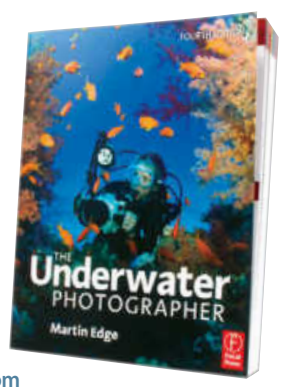
Martin Edge was born in Staffordshire, England in 1955, where he grew up without any inclination towards diving or photography.

Years later, he moved to the Dorset coastline and in 1977 it was here that he learnt to dive in the temperate waters of Weymouth and Portland. He had never had any particular interest or tuition in photography, but his desire to shoot pictures underwater grew into a passion boardering on an obsession.

SIGNED BY THE AUTHOR!

The fourth edition of Martin's book, The Underwater Photographer, is now available.

For a signed copy, phone **01202 887611** or email **martin@dgeunderwaterphotography.com**



THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME IS CALLING

Of course, you don't have to be an underwater photographer to come on the trip. You can just join us for the craic, and enjoy the superlative diving on offer in this part of the world. There will be a special ten-page article produced from the trip, so you'll also be in the magazine!

Email: readertrip@sportdiver.co.uk www.sportdiver.co.uk/bahamas

SCUBALAB UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY WHAT'S NEW

GATES GT14 | £2,340 (€3,325.05)

Gates are world renowned for their video housings, and they are making their mark in the lighting arena as well. The GT14 Underwater Imaging Light unites many practical features into a compact, travelable package built from anodised aluminium. You get up to 14,000 lumens of light through a wide, even 90 degree beam angle, while a big, glove-sized Power Ring rotates through five light levels that include a very low 'scouting mode' for night diving, giving just enough light to see, navigate and set up a shot. Fuel gauge and light level indicators are mirrored to provide a quick glance reading from either side, while a water cooling contact behind the LED enables higher efficiencies for peak lumens output and longer burn times. You get a 30-minute burn time on full power, 75 minutes on half power, and ten hours in 'scouting mode'. The batteries are easily changed and charge in three hours, and the light is depth-rated to 137m.

The price for the light head, battery and charger will be £2,340.

www.camerasunderwater.co.uk

GATES ALEXA MINI | £POA (€POA)

Specifically designed for the Arri Alexa MINI camera, this is a deeply integrated marine imaging system, blurring the lines between camera and housing. Twelve user-assignable controls interface directly with the Arri MINI, allowing access to frequently used functions like white balance, peaking, display overlay, and frame rate.

Gates' familiar mechanical focus/iris/zoom controls provide precision handling of hundreds of PL, Canon and Nikon lenses, with the same lens gear drive system as MINI's relatives in the Gates cinema-grade family.

The seasoned professional will recognise many signature features in the Gates MINI - durable machined aluminium and stainless construction; clean, uncomplicated, user-friendly design; Gates' precision ports for clear, sharp images; extensive line of accessories and custom configurations; and Seal Check II for housing integrity verification.

www.camerasunderwater.co.uk

AQUATICA A7R II | £2,599 (€3,695)

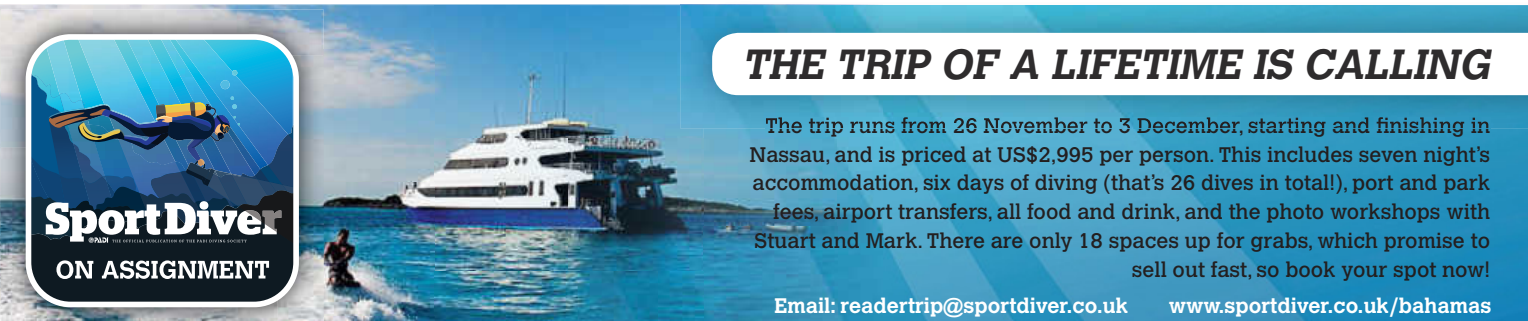
Aquatica were one of the first housing manufacturers to embrace mirrorless camera technology, and with the A7r II housing, they have given underwater photographers the opportunity to take one of the highest-performing units of its genre beneath the surface.

Made from anodised aluminium, the housing allows for quick and simple installation of enhance viewfinders, with no special tool required, and has the best selection of strobe connectors on the market.

It can be depth rated to 90m or 130m at no extra cost, and thanks to the ergonomic controls, can be used in all conditions, cold and hot, with gloves and without.

The housing can take a wide range of Aquatica ports, including the new Slim Macro Port, which will retail for £349,99.

www.camerasunderwater.co.uk

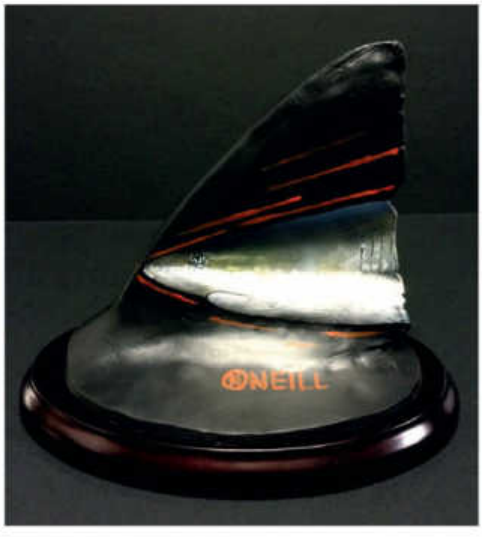


Christmas gift ideas from

THE DARK WATER GALLERY LTD

By Nick Oneill Art

These hand painted , cold cast sculptures would make an ideal gift for any diver . Each one is unique and signed by the artist . Available in the gallery and online for just £95.00 each .



www.thedarkwatergallery.com

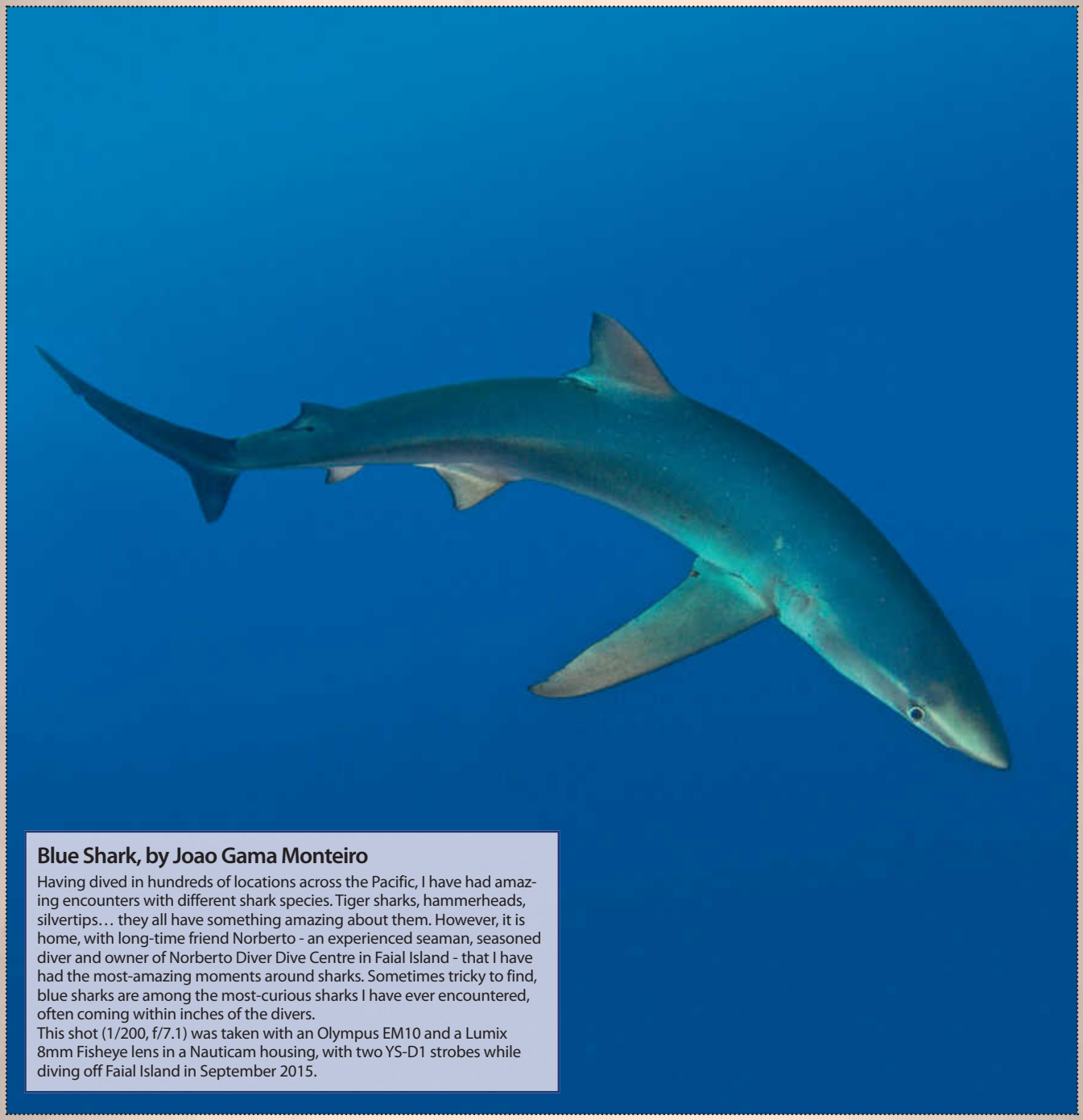
find us on Facebook

READERS PHOTO COMPETITION

WIN A GOPRO

GOPRO HERO RRP £99.99

SPONSORED BY Cameras Underwater



Blue Shark, by Joao Gama Monteiro

Having dived in hundreds of locations across the Pacific, I have had amazing encounters with different shark species. Tiger sharks, hammerheads, silvertips… they all have something amazing about them. However, it is home, with long-time friend Norberto - an experienced seaman, seasoned diver and owner of Norberto Diver Dive Centre in Faial Island - that I have had the most-amazing moments around sharks. Sometimes tricky to find, blue sharks are among the most-curious sharks I have ever encountered, often coming within inches of the divers.

This shot (1/200, f/7.1) was taken with an Olympus EM10 and a Lumix 8mm Fisheye lens in a Nauticam housing, with two YS-D1 strobes while diving off Faial Island in September 2015.

Cameras Underwater
WWW.CAMERASUNDERWATER.CO.UK
TEL: 01404812277

TO ENTER UPLOAD YOUR PICTURES TO WWW.SPORTDIVER.CO.UK/GALLERY

Fuji single arm Package

Fuji double arm Package

AMAZING DEALS ON FUJI LIGHTING

Fuji Strobe Head

Fuji Video Light

12-24UNC Screws for Ikelite housings sold separately

Cameras Underwater

tel: 01404812277

www.camerasunderwater.co.uk

UK DIVE OPERATORS

DIRECTORY KEY

SHOP KEY

OSS.....Onsite servicing
OST.....Onsite testing
BS.....Testing to British Standards

OVERSEAS ABBREVIATIONS

ACC.....Accommodation
AIP.....All inclusive package
AT.....Airport transfers
AYRD.....All year round diving
BH.....Boat hire
CAOS.....Compressed air onsite
CH.....Car hire
EA.....Environment activities
EH.....Equipment hire
ESI.....English speaking instructors
FCF.....Families catered for
LB.....Liveaboards
NDCF.....Non-divers catered for
OWs.....Other watersports
TD.....Tech diving
UWP.....Underwater photography

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE

DIVESTYLE

DIVESTYLE Unit A, Bridge Farm, Reading Road, Arborfield, Berkshire, RG2 9HT
Tel: 0118 976 1729
Fax: 0118 926 9616
Email: info@divestyle.co.uk
Website: www.divestyle.co.uk
Opening Hours: M, T, T, F 10:00-18:00 W 10:00-20:00 S 10:00 - 17:00. Air To 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC. Nitrox, National Geographic. EH, ESI, TD, EA, FCF, AYRD. PADI IDC centre, Nitrox, Trimix, equipment retail, PADI, SSI, BSAC, EFR, DSAT, TDI, rebreather friendly, Family friendly, child friendly, kids parties (4 weeks notice).

CORNWALL

KENNACK DIVING

Sea Acres Holiday Park, Kennack Sands, Helston, Cornwall TR127LT
Tel: 07816 903260
Email: mail@kennackdiving.co.uk
Website: www.kennackdiving.co.uk
Opening Hours: 09.00-1800
Air to 232 Bar. PADI 5★ Dive Resort. EH, AYRD, UWP, CAOS. PADI Courses from Bubblemaker to Assistant Instructor, specialities & guided dives all with friendly local Instructors. Equipment Hire, Heated indoor pool, on site, accommodation available.

CORNISH DIVING SCHOOL

Bar Road, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 4BN
Tel: 07885 771282 & 07779 445851
Email: info@cornishdivingschool.co.uk
Website: www.cornishdivingschool.co.uk
Opening Hours: 09.00-17.30
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5 ★ IDC. Boat Dives. Novice-Instructor. Dive Shop. Shore diving. Escorted Dives. Onsite Pool. Friendly Helpful Staff. Suit Repairs. DSD. Watersports. Snorkeling. EH, ESI, AYRD, UWP, CAOS, FCF, NDCF.

DERBYSHIRE

CHESTERFIELD ADVENTURE CENTRE

Wheatbridge Road, Off DockWall, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 2AB
Tel: 01246 245408
Email: info@divenut.co.uk
Website: www.divenut.co.uk
Opening hours: Tues-Sat 10am-6pm Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC, OSS, BS, EH. Full range of courses from beginner to instructor. Equipment sales, dive club, group holidays. Nitrox, Poseidon rebreather sales & training. Easy parking. 3 pool nights.

ESSEX

DIVERSE SCUBA

Ye Olde Plough House Motel, Brentwood Road, Bulphan, Essex, RM14 3SR
Tel/Fax: 01375 892444
Mob: 07814 570165
Email: jeanne-marie@diverse-scuba.co.uk
Website: www.diverse-scuba.co.uk
Opening Hours: Office & Shop: Monday to Thursday 10.30am -7pm. Saturday 10am to 2pm. Training pool: 6pm to 9.30pm. Closed Friday, Sunday & Bank Holidays. Our own On Site Pool, Air to 300 Bar, PADI 5★ IDC. OSS, EH,On Site Pool FCF, Acc, Restaurant Facilities. Complete range of PADI courses available, from Discover Scuba through to Instructor, with resident course director, Full range of specialities, classroom. Dive shop. Social events and holidays.

KENT

DIVE MACHINE

Unit 11 Orchard Business Centre, SandersonWay, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1QF
Tel: 01732 773553
Fax: 01732 773663
Website: www.divemachine.com
Email: robert@divemachine.com
Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 09.30-17.30,Weds 09.30-19.00. Air to 300 bar, nitrox, trimix, idest. PADI CDC, PADI Courses from beginner to instructor. IANTD, Nitrox. Specialities: Enriched air, Dry suit, Photographer, Deep, Night, Underwater navigator, wreck, Oxygen first aid, DAN 02, Boat, Equipment and Drift. Authorised dealer for most leading mfctrs. Large display area. Classrooms. Large free car park. Professional, friendly service & advice. Regulator Services. Suit repairs. Holidays abroad and in the UK.

LONDON

AQUANAUT SCUBA & SNORKELLING CENTRE

34 Coombe Road, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 7AG
Tel: 0208 546 8882
Email: info@aquanautscuba.co.uk
Website: www.aquanautscuba.co.uk
Opening Hours: Monday - 11am-6pm, Tuesday - 11am-6pm, Wednesday - 11am-6pm, Thursday 11am – 7pm, Friday - 11am-6pm, Saturday – 10am – 6pm, Sunday – by appointment. Nitrox & Air to 300bar, 5★ IDC Centre / IDEST and BSAC Centre. SITA member. OSS OST BS CAOS EH TD. Courses from beginner to instuctor, Fully stocked dive shop with excellent purchasing advice, Friendly and very active dive clubwith UK and overseas trips and social.

MIDDLESEX

G & H DIVING SERVICES LTD

Unit 1, Willow House, River Gardens, N Feltham Trading Estate, TW14 0RD.
Tel: 020 8751 3771 / 020 8890 3302
Fax: 020 8751 2591
E-mail: gerryhassell@gheng.com
Website: www.gheng.com
Opening Hours: 8.30 - 5.30 Mon to Friday. 8.30 - 12 noon Sat.
Air to 300 Bar. BSAC, TDI, SDI & PSA. EH, TD, CAOS. Cylinder testing IDEST 2v, Regulator servicing, Air, Nitrox, Trimix, TDI Technical courses. Suit repairs.

SUSSEX

OCEAN VIEW DIVING SERVICES LTD

160 South Street, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8AU.
Tel: 01903 767224
Fax: 01903 754361
Email: info@oceanviewdiving.co.uk
Website: www.oceanviewdiving.co.uk
PADI 5★ IDC Centre. IANTD, TDI. OSS, OST, EH, BS. Air to 300 Bar, Nitrox. Padi Tec Rec. Tri-mix. Mail order, suit repairs, holidays abroad, on-site indoor pool. Licenced bar and club. Largest selection of equipment in Sussex.

YORKSHIRE

THE DIVERS WAREHOUSE

911 Wakefield Road, Tong, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD4 7QA
Tel: 01274 307 555
Email: sales@diverswarehouse.co.uk
Website: www.diverswarehouse.co.uk
Opening Hours 8:30 - 17:30 Mon - Sat , Thursday 8:30 - 20:30, Sunday Closed. Air to (BAR) 300. EH, ESI, TD, EA, FCF, AYRD, UWP, CAOS. Nitrox. PADI 5★, SSI. Servicing, Cylinder testing (IDEST approved), Equipment Hire, Large Equipped shop with changing facilities, classroom, online sales, large parking area, PADI + SSI courses. Everything Scuba!

ROBIN HOOD WATERSPORTS

152 Leeds Road, Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire WF16 9BJ
Tel: 01924 444888
Fax: 01924 474529
E-mail: sally@roho.co.uk
Website: www.roho.co.uk
Opening Hours: Open Times: Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri - 9.15-6pm Thurs 9.15-8pm Sat - 9.15 -5pm. OSS,OST, BS, IDEST, EH, Nitrox. PADI Dive Centre, BSAC Premier level. Training in our on-site heated pool and lecture rooms. Home of the renowned ROHO drysuits. Nitrox courses & fills. Gigantic 5000sq ft showroom fully stocked with dive watersports & snowboarding equipment. Friendly, helpful staff and instructors. Equipment hire.

IRELAND

CO CORK

OCEANADDICTS

Kinsale, Co. Cork, Ireland
Tel: 00353 (0)87-7903211
Email: anne@oceanaddicts.ie
Website: www.oceanaddicts.ie
Opening Hours: 9.00am to 6.00pm. Air to 300, PADI Resort, DAN, LB, ESI, ACC, AT, UWP, NDCF, CAOS, Nitrox. Liveaboard and day-boat diving, groups and individuals welcome, friendly atmosphere, wrecks and reefs, great photo opportunities, courses available, live the adventure on Ireland's South Coast.

CO DONEGAL

MEVAGH DIVE CENTRE LTD

Milford Road, Carrighat, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, Ireland
Tel: 00353 749154708
Mob: 00353 8765 90264
Email: reception@mevaghdiving.com
Website: www.mevaghdiving.com
Opening Hours: 9am to 7.30pm. Air to 300 Bar, PADI 5★ Dive Centre, EH, ESI, TD, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS, Nitrox, Tri Mix. Mevagh Dive Centre PADI 5 *. All levels of diving including Technical diving. 11m catamaran with dive lift. Accommodation with Swimming pool.

NORTHERN IRELAND

COUNTY DOWN

DV DIVING

138 Mount Steward Road, Newtownards, Co. Down, BT22 2ES.
Tel: 02891 464671/861686
Fax: 02891 464671
Email: info@dvdiving.co.uk
Website: www.dvdiving.co.uk
OSS, OST, BS, EH. DV Diving offer one of Europe's most comprehensive ranges of scuba, technical & commercial diving and powerboat training courses - for the complete beginner through to instructor development for the most experienced professionals

PORTSTEWART

AQUAHOLICS DIVE CENTRE

14 Portmore Road, Portstewart
Tel: 28 70832584
Email: dive@aquaholics.org
Website: www.aquaholics.org
Opening Hours: 9am to 5pm. Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ CENTRE. NITROX, TRIMIX. EH, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, ACC,FCF,AT, AYRD,UWP,CH,BH, NDCF, CAOS.Offering the full range of courses from Beginner to Trimix. Diving the spectacular clear water of the North Coast from Rathlin Island to Malin Head.

DIRECTORY KEY

SHOP KEY

OSS.....Onsite servicing
OST.....Onsite testing
BS.....Testing to British Standards

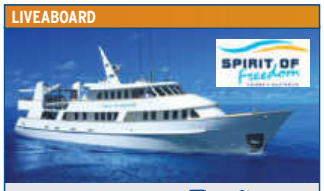
OVERSEAS ABBREVIATIONS

ACC.....Accommodation
AIP.....All inclusive package
AT.....Airport transfers
AYRD.....All year round diving
BH.....Boat hire
CAOS.....Compressed air onsite
CH.....Car hire
EA.....Environment activities
EH.....Equipment hire
ESI.....English speaking instructors
FCF.....Families catered for
LB.....Liveaboards
NDCF.....Non-divers catered for
OWs.....Other watersports
TD.....Tech diving
UWP.....Underwater photography

OVERSEAS DIVE OPERATORS

AUSTRALIA

LIVEABOARD



Australia - Cairns

Spirit of Freedom
www.spiritoffreedom.com.au

Passengers	26	**Elec.**	240
Cabins	11	**Courses**	Y
En-suite	Y	**AirCon**	Y
Length	37m	**Nitrox**	Y
Hull	Steel	**CCR**	N

LIVEABOARD

Australia - Cairns, Queensland

Spoilsport
www.mikeball.com

Passengers	29	**Elec.**	240
Cabins	15	**Courses**	Y
En-suite	Y	**AirCon**	Y
Length	30m	**Nitrox**	Y
Hull	Aluminium	**CCR**	Y

BALI

AQUAMARINE DIVING - BALI

2A Jalan Petitenget, Kuta, Bali, 80361, Indonesia
Tel: +623614738020
Email: info@AquaMarineDiving.com
Website: www.AquaMarineDiving.com
Opening Hours: We are open 7days a week and from 7am to 7pm. Air to (BAR) 200. EH, LB, ESI, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox. 5★ Dive Resort. AquaMarine Diving – Bali is dedicated to ensuring you experience Bali's best diving, from Day Trips to fully–inclusive underwater macro-photography Safaris, Intro-diving and Snorkelling, PADI courses to Divemaster and many Specialties (including the Manta Ray Awareness Specialty). ■

CAYMAN ISLANDS

SUNSET HOUSE - GRAND CAYMAN'S HOTEL FOR DIVERS BY DIVERS

390 South Church Street
PO Box 479GT Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
Tel: 1-345-949-7111 **Fax:** 1-345-949-7101
Email: keith.sahm@sunsethouse.com
Website: www.sunsethouse.com
Opening Hours: 7:00 - 17:30 (Dive Centre Hours). Air To 200 Bar. Stingray City and ex-USS Kittiwake Adventures. PADI 5★ IDC. EH, ESI, EA, Acc, FCF, AT (with packages), AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS (with packages). Full-Service dive operations located at Sunset House. Recreational boat dives. Incredible shore diving. Nitrox. Cathy Church. U/W photo centre. 53 Rooms for accommodations. Bar, restaurant onsite. Stepping out of my room, catching that breath of fragrant tropical breeze, gazing into the alluring blue water…I found the essence of Sunset House. ■ ■ ■

CYPRUS

ALPHA DIVERS

2 Pyla Gardens, Dhekelia Road, Larnaca, Pyla Tourist Area, 7081, Cyprus
Tel: +357 24647519
+357 99866383
Email: info@alpha-divers.com
Website: www.alpha-divers.com
5 star PADI Instructor Development & Tec Rec Centre, BSAC Tec Centre and Seamanship Centre offering the very highest in course from beginner to Instructor.

CYDIVE DIVE CYPRUS

20,Myrra Complex 33, Poseidonos Ave 1, Paphos 8042, Cyprus.
Tel: 00 357 26 934271
Email: info@cydive.com
Website: www.cydive.com
PADI. The First PADI 5★ Career Development Centre & Centre of Excellence in Cyprus. CAOS, EH, CH,AIP,Acc, FCF,AT, ESI's, EAs', BH, AYRD, UWP, OW's, NDCF. Fantastic Location, an exciting programme with 2 Boat Dives & Daytrips Daily. Instructor programmes 4 times a year.

LARNACA DIVE-IN

HTTC Ltd (Hyperbaric Therapy Treatment Ctr)
Poseidonia Medical Centre
47a Eleftherias Avenue, Aradippou, Larnaca, CYPRUS 7102
Tel: 00357 24 252501/24 hr Emergency Diver Help Line 99 518837
Fax: 00357 24 252502
Email: info@hbocyprus.com
Website: www.hbocyprus.com
Opening Hours: 9-5 Mon -Sat.

24/7 Emergency Diver Response. Air to 232 Bar. If you are concerned or feel that you have unusual signs or symptoms after a dive please always get it checked. We have a 24/7, 365 days service with a full Hyperbaric Medical team on standby at our 14 man fully computerized, HAUX 2200 Starmed Unit. We are the Preferred Provider for IDAN, UK Armed Forces, US Armed Forces, NATO and many more. We offer Direct Insurance billing for all treatments. Also Dry Dives to 40 metres, PADI Chamber Specialty Courses, DAN In-Chamber Tender Courses, DAN Chamber Operator Courses, DAN Consumer an Instructor Courses to all Levels.

EGYPT

LIVEABOARD

Egypt, Sharm El Sheikh

VIP One
www.vipone.com

Passengers	16	**Elec.**	220
Cabins	8	**Courses**	Y
En-suite	Y	**AirCon**	Y
Length	29m	**Nitrox**	Y
Hull	Wood	**CCR**	N

CAMEL DIVE CLUB & HOTEL

Centre of Na'ama Bay, PO Box 10, Sharm El Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt.
Tel: +20 69 3600 700
Fax: +20 69 3600 601
Email: info@cameldive.com
Website: www.cameldive.com
PADI 5★ Gold Palm IDC Centre, BSAC, Acc. AT, LB, ESI, EA, BH, AYRD, UWP, OW, NDCF, TD, CAOS, EH, FCF. The Red Seas friendliest diver hotel and dive centre. Join us for spectacular diving and the best apres dive in Sharm.
Established 1986

EAGLE DIVERS

Ocean Club Hotel, 23 City Council Street, Hadaba, Sharm el Sheikh
Tel: 002 01200001590
002 01200001591
Email: info@eagle-divers.com
Website: www.eagle-divers.com
Opening Hours: 8.00am - 6.00pm
PADI 5* resort & TecRec Centre.
Nitrox. Air to 220 Bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. Providing first class personalised service in one of the worlds top diving destinations.
We pride ourselves on making your Red Sea holiday the best it can be.

EMPEROR DIVERS

15 New Kawthar, Airport Road, Hurghada, Egypt
Tel: (+20) 122 234 0995
Email: info@emperordivers.com
Web: www.emperordivers.com
Opening Hours: See website.
EH, LB, ESI, TD, Acc, FCF , AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF. Nitrox, PADI 5★ Year-round diving: the Maldives and Red Sea: El Gouna, Marsa Alam, Hamata and Sharm El Sheikh and Emperor liveaboards. Day diving, dive courses, resort packages.

LOOKING TO ADVERTISE YOUR DIVE CENTRE OR LIVEABOARD?

OVERSEAS DIVE OPERATORS

ELITE DIVING'S DIVERS UNITED

Uni Sharm Hotel,
Sharm Elysees St,
Um El Sid Hill,
Hadaba, Sharm El Sheikh
Tel: 0020 1224 308 780
Email: info@elite-diving.com
Web: www.elite-diving.com
Opening Hours: 8.00am to 19.00pm
Air to 220 Bar. Divers United PADI 5 Resort. Elite Diving. BSAC Diver Traning Center.EH, LB, ESI, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. NITROX, ATOL Bonded through UK Tour operator. British Owner managers, offering Daily Boat Diving on some of the best reefs in the world, House reef, PADI & BSAC courses, Liveaboards, Special excursions.

OCEAN COLLEGE

Naama Bay Hotel,
Naama Bay,
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
Tel: 0020 1228075516
Email: info@ocean-college.com
Website: www.ocean-college.com
Opening Hours: 0800 – 1700.
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★IDC, Nitrox, ATOL Bonded. EH, ESI, EA, AIP, FCF, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Ocean College dive centre's are located at the Naama bay hotel, the Hilton Waterfalls and the Sensatori resort..

RED SEA DIVING COLLEGE

Sultana Building,
Naama Bay,
South Sinai,
Egypt
Tel: 0020 69 3600145
Email: info@redseacollege.com
Website: www.redseacollege.com
Opening hours: 8am - 9pm.
Air to 200 Bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, ACC, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox, National Geographic. PADI 5★ CDC. Multi Award winning centre offering all courses from entry level to professional. Conducted from a stunning beach-front location, boasting the best facilities in Sharm.

SHARKS BAY UMBI DIVING CENTRE

P O Box 275, Sharks Bay,
Sharm el Sheikh, South Sinai,
Egypt
Tel: +20 122 714 2029 +20 69 3600942
Email: info@sharksbay.com
Website: www.sharksbay.com
Opening hours: 8am to 6pm Mon - Sun. Air to 200 Bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox, PADI 5★ and SSI Dive Centre. Sharks Bay Umbi Diving Village combines Bedouin style, warm hospitality and modern facilities. You really will come as a guest but leave as a friend.

SINAI COLLEGE - DIVING CENTER

Sharm Inn Amarin, Hadaba, Sharm El Sheikh
South Sinai 60907, Egypt
Tel: +201154055100
Email: info@sinai-college.com
Website: www.sinai-college.com
Opening hours: 7.30am till 7pm every day of the year. Air to 200 Bar. EH, LB, ESI, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, COAS. Nitrox, PADI Dive Centre. We are an European run and managed dive center based in Sharm El Sheikh with a friendly and professional atmosphere. We provide daily diving, mini safaris and liveaboards.

FUERTEVENTURA

DEEP BLUE DIVING S.L

Barcelo el Castillo, Caleta de Fuste,
Fuerteventura, 35610
Tel: +34 606 275 468 or
+34 928 163 172
Email: info@deep-blue-diving.com
Website: www.deep-blue-diving.com
Facebook: Deep.Blue.Diving.Fuerteventura
Opening Hours: All year 9am-5pm
Air to 200. PADI 5★ GOLD PALM IDC CENTRE & IE LOCATION. EH, ESI, AIP, ACC, FCF, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. WIFI, Equipment Washing and Storage Rooms. Discover Scuba to Instructor. All year round, water front location, small groups, 20-25m visibilty. Exclusive dive sites, after dive sector.

GRAN CANARIAS

BLUE WATER DIVING

Holiday Club Puerto Calma, Avenida Joaquin Blanco Torrent 2,City: Puerto Rico, Mogan State, Las Palmas, 35130, Spain
Tel: +34602080208
+34633963248
Email: info@divingingrancanaria.com
Website: www.divingingrancanaria.com
Opening Hours: 9am until 6pm Monday - Sunday. Air to 200 bar. EH, ESI, Acc, AYRD, NDCF, CAOS. PADI 5★ Dive Centre. All year round diving, boat and shore dives. Ideal for all level of divers. Special offers for groups, families and dive packages. Divemaster internships available.

GREECE

CRETE UNDERWATER CENTER

Mirabello Beach Hotel,
Agios Nikolaos 72100 Crete, Greece.
PO Box 100
Tel/Fax: 00 30 284 1022 406
Mobile: 0030 6945 2444 34 /
0030 6944 1268 46
Email: info@creteunderwatercenter.com
Website: www.creteunderwatercenter.com
PADI Resort D.C.,Day Boats/ Servicing/ Accommodation/ Technical/ IANTD/ PADI/BSAC ResortCenter/Air /Nitrox/ Trimix/ KitonSale. Based within a hotel complex directly on the beach, we provide a great variety of diving services for Beginners through to Advanced and TechnicalDivers .As a well equipped resort and diving centre, we tailor packages to suit your individual or group needs.

NERO-SPORT DIVING CENTER

Limni Keri,
Machairado,
Zakynthos
29092 Greece
Tel: 0030 269 502 8481
0030 698 566 6645
Email: dennis@nero-sport.de
Website: www.nero-sport.de
Opening Hours: All Year, Everyday 9:30 - 18:00 (Except 15.11. - 15.12.)
Air to 200 Bar. PADI DIVE CENTRE, IAC 5★ EH, ESI, Acc, AT, FCF, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. Free childcare. 2-5 trips a day. Day trips. Night diving. Own accommodation. Snack bar. Great family offers. Special group offers. Diving all year round.

GALAPAGOS

LIVEABOARD

San Cristobal, Galapagos

M/V Galapagos Sky

www.galapagossky.com

Passengers	16	**Elec.**	110/220
Cabins	8	**Courses**	Y
En-suite	Y	**AirCon**	Y
Length	30m	**Nitrox**	Y
Hull	Steel	**CCR**	N

HONDURAS

UTILA DIVE CENTRE/MANGO INN

Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras
Tel/Fax: (504) 24253327
Email: info@utiladivecentre.com
Website: www.utiladivecentre.com
www.goproutila.com
Opening Hours: 7am to 7pm
Air to 220 Bar. PADI Career Development Centre and IANTD facility. Nitrox, Trimix, Rebreather friendly, National Geographic Facility. EH, ESI, TD, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CAOS. PADI certification courses from beginner to Instructor (monthly PADI IDC's) with diving packages and accommodation. The island of Utila offers spectacular Caribbean diving and Whale sharks.

INDONESIA

BIG BUBBLE DIVE

Turtle Beach, Gili Trawangan, Lombok NTB, Indonesia 83233.
Tel: +623706125020
+62811390969
Email: info@bigbubblediving.com
Website: www.bigbubblediving.com
Open: 8am to 7pm daily all year round
Established in 2001 by UK Owner Anna Walker, The crystal clear waters (up to 40m visibility) will ensure you see the very best of the aquatic life that diving in Indonesia has to offer.

BLUE MARLIN DIVE

Gili Trawangan, Gili Meno, Gili Air, Senggigi, Lombok, Indonesia.
Tel: ++62 (0) 370 632424
Fax: ++62 (0) 370 642286
Email: info@bluemarlindive.com
Website: www.bluemarlindive.com
PADI 5★ Premier IDC Centre. Acc., AT, LB, ESI, EA, BH, AYRD, UWP, OW, NDCF, TD, EH, CH, AIP, CAOS, FCF. The Gili Islands most professional & friendly 5★ IDC Centre (estblished 16 years). Spectacular world class ocean diving. Ocean front restaurant, bar, night club & freshwater pool. Full retail dive shop on site. DM internship programmes. Full technical diving facility offering TDI & IANTD. Blue Marlin has it's own luxury livaboard offering trips throughout the Indonesian Archipelago. Packages available.

TWO FISH DIVERS

One operator/three tropical-island resorts:
Bunaken Island, North Sualwesi Lembeh Straits, North Sualwesi
Lembongan Island, Bali
Tel: 0062-811-432-805
Email: info@twofishdivers.com
Website: www.twofishdivers.com
Air to 200 bar. PADI 5★ IDC. Nitrox, EH, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. Two Fish Divers is owned and run by Tina and Nigel from UK. Each of their three tropical-island resorts offer a friendly and relaxed atmosphere with some of the best diving in Indonesia:
1) Bunaken Island, North Sulawesi - the award-winning reefs of Bunaken Marine Park.
2) Lembeh Straits, North Sulawesi - the muck-diving capital of the world.
3) Lembongan Island, Bali - home of the mola-mola's and manta's of Bali.
All dive resorts are PADI 5★ , have european management, max 24divers, small dive groups, and a friendly and personal service. Organise a trip to one of more of these resorts, or book an Indo Dive Safari with all three resorts!

LANZAROTE

MANTA DIVING LANZAROTE

Juan Carlos 1, No.6, Local 5,
Puerto del Carmen
Tel: (0034) 928 516815
Mobile: (0034) 649 121142
Email: info@manta-diving-lanzarote.com
manta-diving-lanzarote-val@hotmail.com
Skype: manta-dive-centre
Website: www.manta-diving-lanzarote.com
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8.30-5.30pm all year round. Air to 200 Bar. PADI IRRA RESORT CENTRE, BSAC RESORT CENTRE. OSS, ACC, AT, AYRD, BH, CAOS, CH, NDCF, EA, EH, UWP, ESI, FCF. PADI. Courses & Specialties, Discover Scuba & Snorkelling. Fully equipped, spacious centre, 150mtrs from best sites in Lanzarote. Group Rates All level of divers welcome. NITROX.

SAFARI DIVING LANZAROTE

Playa de la Barrilla 4,
Playa Chica Puerto
Del Carmen,
Tel: 0034 928511992 or
0034 646752512
Email: enquiry@safaridiving.com
Website: www.safaridiving.com
PADI, PADI 5★ Centre, BSAC, PADI Premier Centre, NAUI, SAA.Acc,AT, LB,ESI, EAs, BH, AYRD, UWP, OWs, NDCF, ATOL,TD, CAOS, EH,CH,AIP, FCF. SSI & RYA. We are a PADI dive centre. BSAC Premier Centre and Seamanship Centre. SSI Diver Training Centre. British owned, beach based diving centre, established for over 18 years. Spectacular Ocean diving all year round which include reefs, drop offs, wrecks etc to suit all levels of diver and the complete beginner! Special offers available for dive packages for shore, night and boat dives.

MALDIVES

DIVING & SAILING PVT. LTD

Vivanta by Taj Coral Reef Resort,
Hembadhu, North Male Atoll,
North Male Atoll, 0000, Maldives
Tel: 00960 7487511
Email: diving.vivanta@gmail.com
Web: www.blueinmaldives.com
Opening Hours: 08.30 - 12.30, 14.00 - 18.00.
EH, ESI, EA, AYRD, UWP, BH. PADI 5★ Gold Palm Resort. The major appeal of our Dive Centre is the wreck, which was sunk in 1988, to attract marine life.

EMPEROR DIVERS

15 New Kawthar, Airport Road, Hurghada, Egypt
Tel: (+20) 122 234 0995
Email: info@emperordivers.com
Web: www.emperordivers.com
Opening Hours: See website.
EH, LB, ESI, TD, Acc, FCF , AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF. Nitrox, PADI 5★ Year-round diving: the Maldives and Red Sea: El Gouna, Marsa Alam, Hamata and Sharm El Sheikh and Emperor liveaboards. Day diving, dive courses, resort packages. ■

SUB AQUA DIVECENTER

Sub Aqua Dive Center - Thailand/Oman/ Maldives, Angaga, Thulhagiri & Furaveri
Tel: +498938476959
Thailand: +66800523101
Email: info@subaqua-divecenter.com
Website: www.subaqua-divecenter.com
Opening Hours: 08.00 - 19.00 EVERYDAY.
PADI 5★ SSI. EH, LB, ESI, EA, FCF, AYRD, UWP, BH NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox. Located in Phuket (Thailand), Salalah (Oman) and Maldives. Thailand liveaboard experts. Quality services and full range of diving courses and facilities. Multi-lingual diving Instructor teams. ■

MALTA

DIVE DEEP BLUE MALTA

9/11 Annanija Street, Bugibba, St Pauls Bay, Malta SPB 1320
Tel: 00 356 21 583946
Mob: 00 356 99 868957
Email: dive@divedeepblue.com
Website: www.divedeepblue.com
Opening Hours: 8am till 6pm.
PADI 5★ IDC. EH ESI TD EA AIP Acc FCF AT AYRD UWP CH BH NDCF CAOS.Nitrox /Trimix. Facilities include: Dive Shop, Private parking, swimming pool, sun deck, gas filling/blending station, euipment rental/ sales, drying and storage areas, toilets/ showers, A/C class rooms, technicial facility, CCR support.
■ ■ ■

DIVESHACK SCUBA SCHOOL

14a, Qui Si Sana, Seafront, Sliema, SLM3111, Malta
Tel: 00 356 2133 8558
00 356 9999 3483
Email: info@divemalta.com
Website: www.divemalta.com
Opening Hours: 7 Days a week from 08.00 till 18.00 (17.00 in winter).
PADI 5★ IDC, National Geographic and TecRec Facility. Seafront Location. Resident Course Director. All PADI Courses Taught. Rebreather Friendly. Escorted Dives from Shore/Boat round Malta, Gozo and Comino. Fully Stocked Shop. Operating from Comino May to Oct. Nitrox, Trimix, National Geographic. Speciality side mount and Tec side mount. Acc, AIP, AT, AYRD, BH, BS, CAOS, CH, EA, EH, ESI, FCF, NDCF, OSS + OWS, OST, TD, UWP,

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ❑

DIVEWISE

Westin Dragonara Resort, Malta
Tel: (+356) 21 356 441
Email: info@divewise.com.mt
Website: www.divewise.com.mt
Opening Hours: 7 days a week from 9am till finish.
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ CDC Centre. Nitrox, Trimix, Boat Diving,Day trips. EH, ESI, TD, EA, ACC, FCF , AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS
PADI's No1 centre in Malta offering all courses but specialising in Technical diving & Instrcutor level.

■ ■

ADVENTURE DIVING MALTA

Adventure Diving Malta, Triq-il Luzzu, Qawra, Bugibba, Malta, SPB1981
Tel: 00356 21574526
00356 21574526
Email: adventure.diving.malta@gmail.com
Website: www.adventuredivingmalta.com
Opening Hours: Daily 08.00-18.00.
Air to 220 Bar. PADI 5★ EH,ESI,TD, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD,UWP,CH,BH,NDCF,CAOS, Nitrox Available, We also have mixing station for Nitrox/Trimix, Family orientated, rebreather friendly on site private pool, toilets and showers(Hot),sun deck, tec/tec side mount. ■

GOZO AQUA SPORTS

Gozo Aqua Sports, Rubat Road, Marsalforn, Gozo, Malta, MFN 9014
Tel: 00356 21563037
Email: dive@gozoaquasports.com
Website: www.gozoaquasports.com
Opening Hours: 7 Days a week 08:00 – 18:00.
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC - DSAT TECREC centre & BSAC Resort, ESI, TD, Acc, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS, Nitrox and Trimix Available, Technical & Rebreather Diver Support. Free WI-FI, Free Tea/Coffee/Water, Rinsing/Drying/Storage facilities, Wreck, Boat, Cavern, Digital Photography, Drysuit, Enriched Air, Equipment Specialist, Multilevel, Naturalist, Navigation, Night, PPB, Oxygen Provider, Search & Recovery, Project AWARE Fish ID Specialities. ■ ■

PARADISE DIVING

Paradise Diving, Paradise Bay Resort Hotel, Cirkewwa, MLH9068, Malta
Tel: 0035621574116
0035621524363
Email: alison@paradisediving.com
Website: www.paradisediving.com
Open: May to October 08.30-17.00 Daily. November to April by advance reservation.
Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ RESORT. EH, ESI, EA, ACC, FCF, AT AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF CAOS, Nitrox. Three summer boat dives daily, Malta, Gozo, Comino. No boat surcharge! Private beach location, Cirkewwa. PADI courses. Free group places. Free transport, Mellieha, Bugibba, Qawra.
■

SEA SHELL DIVE COVE

Marfa Road, Mellieha, Malta
Tel: +356/21522595 /
+ 356/21521062
Fax: +356 2152 1062
Email: info@seashell-divecove.com
Website: www.seashell-divecove.com
EH, Nitrox, ESI, TD, CAOS, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH,BH, NDCF. Family run dive centre. Technical diving & courses. Escorted dives from shore/boat Malta, Gozo, Comino.Wreck dive specialist. Latest equipment for hire & for sale. ■ ■

MEXICO

LIVEABOARD

Cabo San Lucas & Ensenada, Mexico
Solmar V
www.solmarv.com

Passengers	22	**Elec.**	110/220
Cabins	12	**Courses**	Y
En-suite	Y	**AirCon**	Y
Length	34m	**Nitrox**	Y
Hull	Steel	**CCR**	Y

LIVEABOARD

Mexico
Nautilus Belle Amie
www.nautilusbelleamie.com

Passengers	30	**Elec.**	120
Cabins	17	**Courses**	N
En-suite	Y	**AirCon**	Y
Length	41m	**Nitrox**	Y
Hull	Steel	**CCR**	Y

LIVEABOARD

Mexico
Nautilus Explorer
www.nautilusexplorer.com

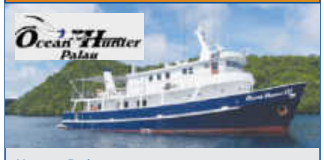
Passengers	25	**Elec.**	120
Cabins	13	**Courses**	N
En-suite	Y	**AirCon**	Y
Length	35m	**Nitrox**	Y
Hull	Steel	**CCR**	Y

SCUBA CLUB COZUMEL

Av R Melgar Prol S Km 1.5, Cozumel, Q. Roo Mexico 77600
Tel: 52+987-872-1133 **US#** 727-230-9613
Fax: 727-388-3638
Email: scubacozumel@ecozumel.net
Website: www.scubaclubcozumel.com
Opening Hours: 24/7/365.
Acc, ESI, EH, AYRD, UWP, BH, FCF, CAOS. PADI 5★ Training center and Dive Resort offering dive packages including room, meals and diving. Full service 5 star training facility offering all levels of instruction and daily dive trips. ■ ■

PALAU

LIVEABOARD



Koror, Palau
Ocean Hunter Palau
www.oceanhunter.com

Passengers	18	**Elec.**	240
Cabins	9	**Courses**	Y
En-suite	Y	**AirCon**	Y
Length	31m	**Nitrox**	Y
Hull	Steel	**CCR**	Y

LIVEABOARD

Malakal, Palau
Solitude One
www.solitude-one.com

Passengers	22	**Elec.**	220
Cabins	10	**Courses**	Y
En-suite	Y	**AirCon**	Y
Length	52m	**Nitrox**	Y
Hull	Steel	**CCR**	Y

PHILIPPINES

THRESHER SHARK DIVERS

Malaapscua Island, Cebu 6013 Philippines
Tel: 00639176254195 /
00639177959433
Fax: +63324370985
Email: dive@thresherdivers.com
Web: www.malapascua-diving.com
Opening Hours: 5am-midnight.
Air to 200 bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, ACC, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox. PADI 5★ CDC. The premier PADI 5 Star CDC located on Malapascua Island, the only place in the world where thresher sharks can be seen daily. ■ ■ ■ ■

LIVEABOARD

Philippines
Discovery Palawan
www.discoveryfleet.com

Passengers	32	**Elec.**	240
Cabins	16	**Courses**	Y
En-suite	Y	**AirCon**	Y
Length	49m	**Nitrox**	Y
Hull	Steel	**CCR**	N

THAILAND

SEA BEES DIVING

1/3 MOO 9, VISET Road, CHALONG, PHUKET 83130 THAILAND
Tel: +66 (0)76 381 765
+ 66 (0)76 381 943
Email: info@sea-bees.com
Website: www.sea-bees.com
Opening Hours: 0700 - 2100
Air to 200 bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS, Nitrox, National Georgraphic, SSI Diamond Instructor Training Centre. Located in Phuket, Khao Lak, Phi Phi & Pak Meng - with our fleet of daytrip and liveaboard vessels, we are "Adventure In good hands ■

SIMILAN DIVING SAFARIS Co LTD

13/19 Moo 7, Khao Lak, Khuk Khak, Takuapa, Phang Nga, 82190, Thailand
Tel: +66 (0)76 485 470
Email: info@similan-diving-safaris.com
Website: www.similan-diving-safaris.com
Open: Monday-Sunday, 9:00 - 21:00, mid Oct - mid May.
Air to 200 bar. EH, LB, ESI, EA, AIP, ACC,FCF, ATF, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. PADI 5 Star Dive Centre. Livaboard specialist, PADI courses, Nitrox aboard our boat. Eco-friendly toiletries. Similan, Surin, Islands. Myanmar (Burma). Mergui Archipelago. Day trips, diving, snorkelling, European, established for 15 years. ■

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

DIVE PROVO

Ports of Call, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands
Tel: 001 649 946 5040 (shop)
Fax: 001 649 946 5936
Email: diving@diveprovo.com
Website: www.diveprovo.com
Hours: Hours 8am-5pm daily. Air to 200 Bar. EST. Hotel/dive packages to suit every taste. PADI 5★ Resort, SSI Resort. OSS, EH, ESI, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox 32%. Daily 2 tank dives to all areas around Provo; West Caicos, French Cay, N.W. Point, Grace Bay, Pine Cay. Air, Nitrox, instruction and dedicated snorkel trips. British owners Alan and Clare Jardine. 1990 - 2010: Celebrating 20 years of diving as it should be!
■ ■

CLASSIFIEDS

ACCESSORIES

recycle
When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

MEDICAL

Diving Medicals Nottingham
- Sport Diver medicals £50
- HSE commercial diving medicals £110
- Oil and Gas UK Offshore Medicals £100
- HGV/PSV/taxi medicals £50
- Occupational Health Medicals

Discounts for students and large groups
For appointments call 0780 2850 084
email: mclamp@doctors.org.uk

DR Des McCann
HSE and Sport Diver Medicals
Majority done within 72 hrs. Can usually manage same day.
Dr Des McCann : Poole Dorset
Mob 07970 627811 Land line 01202 708638
desmondfmccann@hotmail.com

Diving Medicals in the Midlands HSE / Sport / Advice – Email: doctor@midlandsdivingchamber.co.uk / Tel: 01788 579555

WEBSITES

www.lumb-bros-das.co.uk
Quality diving products.

www.otterboxes.co.uk
Rugged waterproof cases for every environment.

www.unidive.co.uk
A quality range of masks, snorkels, fins and knives.

www.tek-tite.co.uk
Torches, strobes, marker lights for diving and outdoor pursuits.

INSURANCE

EQUIPMENT

roho dive

- Servicing on Site
- Wet/Dry Suits
- Regulators
- BCDs
- Cylinders (IDEST)
- Computers
- Watches
- Mail order

01924 444888 dive@roho.co.uk
www.roho.co.uk

HOLIDAYS IN ENGLAND

Top-rated family-run South Devon B&B

Very close to Torquay harbour for dive boats and easy drive of other local dive sites. Off road parking and fresh water wash down and drying facilities.

5 minutes drive to local dive shop for tank replenishing.

Full details and online booking at
www.**theredholme**.co.uk
or telephone **01803 203647**

Please quote "**Sport Diver**" when contacting us direct for free use of wash down facilities

REGULATOR SERVICE

REPAIRS

Order the next issue today

30+ magazines
Direct to your door
FREE UK delivery

buyamag.co.uk

WESTFIELD
SUB AQUA & MARINE INSURANCE SERVICES LTD
www.divinginsuranceuk.com
Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Specialist Sport Diver
Insurance

CHARTER BOATS

SCOTLAND

DIVE CENTRE . ACCOMMODATION . BOAT CHARTER . AIR

DIVESKYE
WORLD CLASS DIVING
at home, here in the UK

scenic . wrecks . night . drifts . excellent visibility . abundant life . prolific colour
dramatic terrain . a photographers paradise . wonderful topside wildlife

www.dive-and-sea-the-hebrides.co.uk

Dive & Sea the Hebrides

Join us to celebrate our 30th Birthday in 2016

clubs
small groups
universities
buddy pairs

SIGN UP for news, offers, competitions, special trips

Subscribe today

30+ magazines

GIFT ideas

FREE UK delivery

subscription save.co.uk

SCAPA FLOW
FEW PLACES AVAILABLE FOR 2015.
TAKING BOOKINGS FOR 2016 AND BEYOND

For a great diving package from our 20m hard day boat, 02 clean 15lt tanks, air to 300 bar, minibus, complimentary airport & Stromness ferry pickups. Self-contained accommodation with hot breakfast in central Stromness, all inclusive plus onboard nitrox. All sizes of parties catered for.

Email: leigh@divescapaflow.co.uk
Tel: 01856 850 055 | www.divescapaflow.co.uk

www.mvhalton.co.uk Scapa Flow Oban Shetland Norway

01856 851532
bob@mvhalton.co.uk

Halton Charters

DIVE SCAPA FLOW
& ORKNEY
ABOARD THE 70ft LIVE-ABOARD M.V. SUNRISE

The M.V. Sunrise is a 70ft live-aboard dive boat, providing high quality diving holidays in Scapa Flow. There is a hydraulic diver lift, making it easy to get back on board. Nitrox is available on board; we can provide any mix you require. Contact us today for availability and to book your holiday with us

Tel: 01856 874425
www.sunrisecharters.co.uk
email: dougie@sunrisecharters.co.uk

M.V GAELIC ROSE OBAN

Liveaboard diving holidays around the West Coast of Scotland. Weekend, full week and mid week bookings available. Accommodation, meals and airfills included in the price. Nitrox available. Diver lift on board. For more information please contact
Nicki 01967 421714 or Bob 07778965618
Website: www.gaelicrose.com, Email: info@gaelicrose.com

URCHIN DIVE CHARTER
OBAN & SOUND OF MULL
Hard Boat Diving

BOOK NOW: 0800.5428181

Warm Saloon
Wet & Dry Storage
Moon Pool Entry
20 years Diving Knowledge
On board Galley Hot Tea & Snacks

www.puffin.org.uk
Diver Friendly Catamaran

Advertise your UK charter Boat with us now, call Sam on 0118 974 2502

NORTH

FARNE ISLANDS DIVING
William Shiel

Farne Island Diving available all year round in our hard boats and Rhib for both groups and individuals. Air Station with air fill collection service (no queuing for air fills).

Tel: 01665 721297 / Mob: 07799 666573
Email: diver@farne-islands.com
www.farne-islands.co.uk | www.farneislandsdiving.co.uk

For offers quote: "SPORT DIVER"

• Travel Insurance
• Equipment Insurance
• Boat Insurance
• Personal Accident Insurance

Phone 'your insurance buddy' on
01483 237827

The Sub Aqua Association choose us for our Insurance expertise!

I'm diving for fun! Amazing. Swimming around with an empty head in warm, crystal-clear water accompanied by blacktip, whitetip, grey reef and nurse sharks, whopping great tuna and humphead wrasse, turtles and vast schools of reef fish. I should do this more often.

The route is a good one: Papeete, Pakarua Atoll, Makatea Island, Fakarava Atoll, Tahanea Atoll, Marutea Sud Atoll, Mangareva Island, Pitcairn Island, Henderson Island, Ducie Atoll and Easter Island. Just the list of those evocative names is enough to get me excited. So there's the diving, the outstandingly beautiful islands and to top it all I'm doing this onboard the National Geographic Orion - a cruise ship with fine lines, 100 passengers, 120 crew, 10 zodiacs and stacks of very good diving gear. There is also unlimited (and excellent) food and alcohol served in the best of style and only the occasional need to wear long trousers.

The ship is part of the Lindblad Expedition fleet operated in support of our National Geographic Pristine Seas project, so the team of regional experts onboard is giving talks on everything from history, botany, marine science of all kinds, climate, geology, archaeology, conservation, photography, filmmaking and birds.

My bit is to speak on Pristine Seas, the Pitcairn Islands and later today I'll be giving a talk on exploration and there lies the first difficult thing I've done on this trip: When I deliver talks on exploration I like to be seen as a man "fresh from the battle". You know the kind thing - I hope the audience might imagine me with hair plastered with polar frost, or caked in sea salt, my skin burnt to a cinder, a look of faraway horizons in my eyes and a general sense of testosterone-fuelled adventures being presented. If they don't look too closely, then with some luck I can just about pull this off. But on this cruise I've been living alongside my audience, which means that I'm exposed. How will it look when I speak of near-death experiences, such as diving the black hole, getting lost underneath Antarctic icebergs and leading Greenland Icecap crossings when mostly they have seen a very soft man falling asleep in the sun, consuming ever-increasing volumes of expensive wine and cakes and being waited on hand and foot? How can I talk about converting complex and ambitious science hypotheses into hugely challenging and risky field operations in remote regions when my fellow cruisers have seen me totally absorbed by this soft life? And even worse, how does it look when I reflect on all of those hairy diving experiences when they have seen the Divemasters prepare my dive gear, load the boat and then lead me on dives? It's a disaster.

So here I am, in paradise on a luxury trip and my biggest problem in life is how to look like an explorer whilst at this very moment some of our young soldiers are returning from the frontline with appalling injuries. I am supremely grateful that I'll never know what it feels like to be cut down by a bomb in the prime of life. And I seriously doubt that I would have the courage for the long battle of survival, recovery and rehabilitation. But unbelievably some of them overcome the odds and with the help of scuba diving their rehab journey is improved, and that's where we fit in.

"How will it look when I speak of near-death experiences ... when mostly they have seen a very soft man falling asleep in the sun, consuming ever-increasing volumes of expensive wine and cakes and being waited on hand and foot?"

I'm a new Patron for Deptherapy and am delighted to be presenting a fundraiser for them on the evening of 30 January. We'll be at the National Sailing Academy in Portland, which means we can also have a dive at Chesil Cove and you can see if this recent luxury treatment has affected my ability to do the "Chesil Beach Crawl" up the pebbles in dumping surf!

This will be a packed, energetic and fun event in support of our heroes. Please do join me by calling O'Three for tickets: 01305 822820. See you there for speaking, drinking, dancing and diving!

Paul is the Vice President of the Royal Geographical Society. For 10 years he was the Base Commander of Rothera Research Station in Antarctica and was also the BAS Diving Officer. He presents television and radio programmes for the BBC. www.paulrose.org

FINNSUB

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

Simpler things work better

FLY

- Perfect for recreational and technical divers
- 6 wing sizes
- Comfort or DIR harness options
- Robust Cordura 2000 construction

FINN LIGHT

- 1300, 2000 and 3000 Lumen models
- Handheld and umbilical versions
- Hardened aluminium body with borosilicate glass

Stockists

Aquasport International, Birmingham, 0121 7066628
Bristol Channel Diving Services, Cardiff, 0292 0464846
Cork Dive Centre, Cork, ROI, 0879 941998
DiveLife, Manchester, 0161 7690300
Mike's Dive Store, London, 0208 9946006
Ocean View Diving Services, West Sussex, 01903 767224
Scuba Zone, London, 0207 4354365
Seaways Diving, Cornwall, 01326 375544
Simply Scuba, Kent, 0844 5677070

Test Centres

Stock available to dive, call in advance to book.

Andark Diving, Southampton, 01489 581755
Stoney Cove, Leicestershire, 01455 273089
Wraysbury Dive Centre, London, 01784 488007

For more information on all FinnSub products go to
www.finnsub.com or www.facebook.com/FinnsubUK

Distributor for UK and Ireland:
Suunto Diving UK - for more information call 01420 587272

WINTER WARMERS

SUUNTO'S GIFT TO YOU

PURCHASE ONE OF THESE

AND WE GIVE YOU ONE OF THESE FOR FREE

OR ONE OF THESE

AND WE GIVE YOU ONE OF THESE FOR FREE

Suunto are giving you a gift this Winter. Purchase any colour Suunto Zoop or Suunto Vyper and receive a FREE SK8 Compass Bungee mount (worth £49.00).

Or when you purchase a Suunto Vyper Air, Suunto $HelO_2$ or a Suunto D6i receive a FREE Transmitter (worth £250.00).

SUUNTO

CONQUERING NEW TERRITORY

Visit your local authorised Suunto retailer for more information. Offer valid untill 31st December 2015. Suunto Diving UK reserve the right to withdraw the offer at anytime. Offer only valid while stocks last.

For more information call 01420 587272
Discover Moves at www.movescount.com
Follow us on @SuuntoDivingUK and at www.facebook.com/SuuntoDivingUK